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Tucker, a Penn Dog

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Dear Friend of the Veterinary School,

You have been our faithful ally, as either a Friend of New Bolton Center, the Small Animal Hospital, or perhaps the large animal hospital. Your gifts have helped save and protect thousands of large and small animal patients from life-threatening disease or injury. As owners, we have all reaped the benefits of your compassion. You have responded enthusiastically and unselfishly to our requests for support. We know that those of you who have given recently will understand our need for additional support and will accept our thanks for your previous giving.

But if you haven't given recently, why not now?

At this time of the year, the phenomena of new animal life at New Bolton and the Small Animal Hospital are a fascinating and happy counterpoint to the work of healing.

But accompanying this space of life beginnings is an increase in injuries. Warm weather always means more activity. All of us feel a little friskier.

And both our hospitals experience an upsurge in cases. Your dogs and cats begin spending more time out of doors and are vulnerable to a multitude of major and minor hazards to their health: paw injury, automobiles, poisoning, botalism, Fleas. Even a fight. Routine visits for testing for such serious afflictions as heartworm and Rocky Mountain Fever account for a significant increase in the Small Animal Hospital's caseload.

Spring also brings renewed anxieties to farmers who may face a devastating year if disease runs unchecked. The latest outbreak of avian flu this past fall continues to haunt the Pennsylvania and regional agricultural economies.

New Bolton Center has been working hard on this major threat. Our researchers are under enormous pressure to accelerate efforts to halt the problem.

Spring is, of course, the time for horse owners to reseed the pleasures of the track, field, or ring. But here, too, renewed activity brings painful reminders of fragilities in animals of all ages and sizes.

It seems like only yesterday we remember when beloved and celebrated horses were put down for injuries as heartbreakingly simple in humans as bone fractures.

But today, orthopedic rehabilitation surgical techniques developed at New Bolton have largely eliminated the need for such drastic measures.

Yet always new perils arise. The spring of 1986, for instance, marks the beginning of another warm weather cycle we must face with Potomac Horse Fever looming ahead and no proven antidotes to this mysterious killer in sight. Spring is indeed, a mixed blessing for New Bolton and the Small Animal Hospital.

Perhaps you have brought your animal to us at this time last year or maybe the year before. In the two years since then our case load has increased by over 3,000!

No wonder our clinical, teaching, and research resources are pushed to their breaking point.

We need your help. For our part we pledged that your gifts would be used directly to treat and protect the animals you have entrusted to our care. But sadly, in accord with this pledge, we will soon have to suspend mailing Bellwether to you if you do not contribute to either the Friends program in 1985-86.

We would love to continue sending you every issue of Bellwether, but due to its popularity the mailing list has grown huge. Printing and postage costs have risen so steeply as a consequence that we cannot afford to send you Bellwether, unless you have your continuing support.

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Your steadfast support will ensure the continued effectiveness of these unique enterprises dedicated to your animals' health. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Richard A. McFeat, V.M.D.
Associate Dean For New Bolton Center and Hospital Director

Barry J. Stopine
Director
Small Animal Hospital

Scholarships

The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recently made a contribution of $10,000 to the student loan fund for the 1985-86 academic year. A donation to the scholarship fund was received from the Chester Valley Kennel Club.

Wayne Johnson and Evelyn Crish, both third-year students, are the recipients of a scholarship from the Plainfield Kennel Club.

Martin McGuire, a fourth-year student, is the recipient of a scholarship from the Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club.

Beth Ann Ferry, a fourth-year student, received the Dr. Samuel F. Scheidy Memorial Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation. The Dr. Samuel B. Guss Memorial Scholarship, made available by the same organization, was awarded to Steven A. Blake, a fourth-year student.

Steven Wilson, a second-year student, received a scholarship from the Burlington County Kennel Club.

Carolyn M. Glass, a second-year student, was awarded a scholarship offered by the Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association.

A Salisbury Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 each was awarded to five senior students: Joselyn L. Bezner, Margaret N. Bliss, Doris A. Cappiello, Giancarla Chieffo, Bonita E. Conard.

Tucker, a Penn Dog

All his life, Tucker was a Penn dog. When I first started to teach in 1975, he ran away from the house and showed up in my class. And from then on, I just took him with me. He got to know how long 30 minutes was and would stand up and shake to signal me that it was time to stop. And if for some reason I left him home, he would more often than not find him on the steps of College Hall—or get a call from the Dean’s Office to come pick him up.

He had early contacts with the Vet School, too—abdominal surgery after he impaired himself jumping a fence and treatment after a bicyclist hit us both crossing a street. A generation of Penn history and Am Civ students knew Tucker and to the Jesup, to the Jusup.

As soon as he arrived, he seemed to become part of the family Life. But you helped give his life the proper finish. We had a few months to mourn him and to bury him. I’ll never have another dog like Tucker. I’ll probably never ever meet one, and I have known and owned a lot of dogs. As one of my colleagues put it years ago, Tucker was “a person in a dog suit.” He didn’t even know how to bark.

Some of his friends asked how they could remember him, so I thought that given his Penn connections and his special connection with you in the end, sending contributions through you was the most appropriate gesture. And I shall join them in hopes that some other receiving musts be treated so well— D.M. Faust

Editors note: Tucker’s owner wrote this letter to Dr. Sheldon Steinberg, Professor and Chief of the Section of Neurology at the School. The School has established a memorial program for deceased pets, and the contributions help to provide better care for the animal patients brought to the hospital.

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