1-1-1991

Proposed State Funding Cuts

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. http://repository.upenn.edu/bellwether/vol1/iss30/5
For more information, please contact libraryrepository@pobox.upenn.edu.
Scholarship Program in Veterinary Public Service Established

Robert F. Fairchild, New York, NY, has established the Lois F. Fairchild Scholarship Program in Veterinary Public Service at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

The scholarship program, in honor of Mr. Fairchild's mother who cared greatly for animals and their welfare, is the first such program in a veterinary school. It is designed to encourage veterinarians to enter the field of public practice or service as a career goal.

Mr. Fairchild's motive to establish the endowment stemmed from the blending of his family's lifelong interests, coupled with a suggestion from the Dean, Edwin J. Andrews. "We are committed to broadening the ways in which veterinary medicine is integrated into a global society and this program challenges us to expand our collective recognition and understanding of public service. Scholarship recipients are required to practice in the public sector for at least one year following graduation. Areas of employment include such diverse areas as: epidemiology/public health; direct animal care for humane/SPCA organizations (an internship here is not considered appropriate public practice); Peace Corps; Native American Projects of the AVMA; federal, state, and local government services; aquaria, zoos and wildlife organizations; service to Seeing Eye organizations; and, World Health Organization."

"We are enthusiastic about the Lois F. Fairchild Scholarship Program in Veterinary Public Health," said Dean Edwin J. Andrews. "We are committed to broadening the ways in which veterinary medicine is integrated into a global society and this program challenges us to expand our collective recognition and understanding of public service. Scholarship recipients are required to practice in the public sector for at least one year following graduation. Areas of employment include such diverse areas as: epidemiology/public health; direct animal care for humane/SPCA organizations (an internship here is not considered appropriate public practice); Peace Corps; Native American Projects of the AVMA; federal, state, and local government services; aquaria, zoos and wildlife organizations; service to Seeing Eye organizations; and, World Health Organization."

From the Dean

Each year, individual, as well as societal perceptions of the world around us change; it has been argued that "perception is reality." Hence, a major change in society is our perception of our relationship with animals. Just as we have come more aware of our environment, more accepting of other cultures and norms, and more willing to challenge dogma and the status quo, so too have we focused on our responsibilities toward animals.

The following is a quotation from a recent report of a working party for the Council for Science and Society in Great Britain. The quotation is found in a new publication, Animals in Society, published by the Oxford University Press (1988). "It is one of the moral assumptions of our society (and of many others) that a duty exists to protect, however we must address, clearly setting limits on what may be done to them in order to satisfy human needs and desires. It is not necessary to invest animals with rights in order to assert and enforce that duty. The duty arises from the intellectual and moral perceptions which are a product of human nature."

Proposed State Funding Cuts

Governor Casey's proposed reduction in the University's state appropriation has forced Penn to plan adjustments in its FY '92 budget. University President Hackney said the adjustments, he announced, mean postponement of new construction and renovation, some reduction in faculty and staff, and a tuition increase a bit larger than planned.

The governor proposed a 49 percent cut—$18.6 million—in Penn's FY '92 appropriation, which was to have been $37.6 million. "The risk to the University is real and it requires important programmatic and financial choices. But above all, the academic mission and quality of the University must be preserved," Hackney emphasized.

Governor Casey proposed that Penn's 107-year-old Veterinary School—the only one in the Commonwealth—lose nearly $7 million of its appropriation. "For one year, the University will underwrite the vet school" by absorbing nearly $6 million of the shortfall, Hackney pledged. "But if the appropriation is not restored, we will have to decide whether we can afford to continue the school's operations."

"We will aggressively seek restoration of the full appropriation to the University, which was to have matched the FY '91 level," Hackney said. "However, we must address, clearly setting limits on what may be done to them in order to satisfy human needs and desires. It is not necessary to invest animals with rights in order to assert and enforce that duty. The duty arises from the intellectual and moral perceptions which are a product of human nature."

A better understanding of how we use animals heightens our sensitivity and sharpens our moral perception. If the only group addressing this issue is composed of those we consider animal rights extremists, clearly our view will be influenced, if not actually biased, in one direction. One need only look at the untruths and distortions which have been printed by PETA and other groups regarding Dr. Adrian Morrison and his colleagues in other schools here at Penn. Despite the activists' allegations, Dr. Morrison has been chosen as the recipient for the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This prestigious honor recognizes Dr. Morrison's courage and determination, in the face of personal risk, to defend the use of animals in research.

The Bellwether provides us with a format to explore with you, our constituents, friends and clients, the many aspects and issues involving animal use, and in turn, to teach and persuade others about its value.

Alumni Day

Alumni Day will be held at New Bolton Center on Saturday, May 18, 1991. Save the date, send in your registration early, join the fun!

The day will include activities for everyone—alumni, spouses, and children—so, by all means, bring the kids. In addition to the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society's Annual Meeting, there will be a barbecue lunch, hayrides/carriage rides, a side saddle exhibition, and outdoor games, including volleyball, softball, and special games for the kids. A walking tour of NBC and a tour of the Hagley Museum (the original DuPont mills, estate, and gardens in Wilmington) are other activities.

The annual Alumni Dinner Dance will follow in the evening at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. We are inviting all our alumni to join us for an evening of elegant dining and dancing. (The hotel provides babysitting service, so you needn't worry about the kids.)

A better understanding of how we use animals heightens our sensitivity and sharpens our moral perception. If the only group addressing this issue is composed of those we consider animal rights extremists, clearly our view will be influenced, if not actually biased, in one direction. One need only look at the untruths and distortions which have been printed by PETA and other groups regarding Dr. Adrian Morrison and his colleagues in other schools here at Penn. Despite the activists' allegations, Dr. Morrison has been chosen as the recipient for the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This prestigious honor recognizes Dr. Morrison's courage and determination, in the face of personal risk, to defend the use of animals in research.

The Bellwether provides us with a format to explore with you, our constituents, friends and clients, the many aspects and issues involving animal use, and in turn, to teach and persuade others about its value.

Over the next year we will provide a series of articles to begin this process of probing, education and challenge. We welcome your response to this concept and the specific issues raised. The School's newly instituted Bioethics Committee will value your input as we deal with our institutional perception and position on these complex and important issues. Thank you.

Edwin J. Andrews, V.M.D., Ph.D.