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James Serpell Appointed to Moore Chair

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From The Dean

Dear friends:

The Summer and early Fall have been an exciting time for the School. We were successful in obtaining State funding, as well as the necessary bridging from the University to allow the School to move ahead with its programs. Our August fund raiser in Saratoga was a major success, followed by the new academic year when recruitment for twenty standing faculty positions was initiated. In October we dedicated the Marie A. Moore Chair in Humane Comparative Oncology. With an endowment of more than $4 million, the Center will prove a major asset for the School’s research, teaching, and clinical programs.

This bellwether message is my last as dean. Effective January 1, 1994, Dr. Alan Kelly, Chairman of Pathobiology, will assume the acting deanship until a permanent dean is recruited. Paula and I valued our opportunity to serve the School and to work over the years with so many of our friends and supporters. We thank you for your efforts and friendship.

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

James Serpell Appointed to Moore Chair

Dr. James Serpell has arrived at the School to become the first occupant of the Marie A. Moore Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare. Serpell comes to Penn from the University of Cambridge, England, where he was founder and director of the Companion Animal Research Group.

An animal behaviorist who has studied animals in the wild and in captivity, Serpell has published numerous books and articles on various aspects of animal welfare and human-animal interaction. His 1986 book, In the Company of Animals: A Study of Human-Animal Relationships (Basil Blackwell) drew praise from both sides of the Atlantic. The New York Times Book Review noted that the book “succeeds in its major objectives: to establish the importance of human-animal relationships and to stake out a moral position from which future exploration can proceed.”

Serpell has served as a consultant to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He has published numerous books and articles on various aspects of animal welfare and human-animal interaction. He is co-author of Companion Animals in Society (Oxford University Press, 1988), and co-editor of Animals and Human Society: Changing Perspectives, due out next year (Routledge).

“We are exceedingly pleased to have attracted Dr. Serpell to the Moore Chair,” says Edwin Andrews, dean of the Veterinary School. “The lengthy search process first defined what type of scholar should fill this unique chair, and then an international net was cast to find the very best person.

“Dr. Serpell is a distinguished leader in the field of human-animal interaction. We realize more each day how we, as humans, depend on all animals in our environment. As a school that has always been at the forefront of discovery, we are pleased to have Dr. Serpell join our ranks to contribute in this very important field, which will be enriched by his interests, experience and research.”

The Moore Chair, dedicated to studies on animal welfare and human-animal interaction, was established with a gift from the late Marie A. Moore, an animal welfare activist who bred and raced thoroughbreds here and in England for many years. Moore also bred mastiff dogs, and helped re-establish the breed after devastating losses of breeding stock during World War II. Her 1978 book, The Mastiff, gave an overview of the history and development of the breed.

Sally Young