A Call for NBC Memories
Expanded Services in Medical Genetics

Dr. John Melniczek, V’92, post-doctoral fellow in medical genetics, rejoined the clinical staff of the Section of Medical Genetics and has been assisting Drs. Urs Giger, Margret Casal and Hamutal Mazrier in expanding the clinical and laboratory services offered to VHUP clinicians and referring veterinarians.

Along with a strong clinical and research background in the field of medical genetics, he brings with him a great interest in identifying and correcting, where possible, canine and feline reproductive problems, and in assisting owners in pediatric care and genetic counseling. Artificial insemination will now be available in canine infertility cases that the primary clinician believes could benefit from such a procedure.

Dr. Melniczek will also be available to answer questions regarding the Section’s four laboratories: the metabolic screening laboratory which seeks to identify patients that might have inherited metabolic disorders; the hematology laboratory that provides assistance in identifying blood compatibility products for patients through the blood bank, and in the identification of canine and feline blood disorders; the cytogentic laboratory that identifies patients who have disorders of sexual development; and the newest laboratory, the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory, which has been identifying carriers and affected animals for a variety of breed-specific genetic diseases in cats and dogs.

To inquire about referrals for patients with reproductive, pediatric, or genetic problems, or to ask questions about the services provided by the laboratories, Dr. Melniczek and the rest of the Section of Medical Genetics’ staff can be reached at 215-898-4680 or at http://www.vet.upenn.edu/penngen.

Join the Pet Memorial Program

Established in 1982, the Pet Memorial Program has grown from a handful of veterinarians to a large group of practitioners across the country who make gifts in memory of clients’ pets. The funds raised enhance teaching and service, which in turn helps the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) provide the best veterinary care for its companion animal patients.

Those veterinarians who participate in the Program agree that it is an excellent client relations tool, and they have received wonderful responses from their clients upon being informed that a gift to VHUP has been made in memory of their pet. If you do not already participate, you are encouraged to do so.

The Program has been recently reviewed to make it more efficient for both the School and the participating veterinarians. Beginning on January 1, 2002, notification cards will be sent by veterinarians instead of the School. This decision was made in consultation with several of the participating veterinarians, and will streamline the administration of the Program. For each tax-deductible contribution of $100 to the School, participating veterinarians will receive 10 note cards to send to their clients. Not only will this support enhance their client relations’ efforts, it will help to maintain VHUP’s standard of excellence.

For more information or for card order forms, please contact Elizabeth McNamara, Annual Giving Coordinator, at (215) 898-1480 or via e-mail at <emcnamar@vet.upenn.edu>.