

# Bellwether 8

University of Pennsylvania // Summer 1983

## Nurses for Animals

**T**he comfort of patients and the smooth functioning of a hospital depends very much on a skilled nursing staff. This not only applies to a human hospital but also to an animal hospital. At the two facilities of the School of Veterinary Medicine, VHUP and New Bolton Center, the four-legged patients are cared for by a trained, full-time nursing staff. The nurse-technicians at both hospitals are state certified and have extensive training in animal care. Their charges range from small exotic birds to giant dogs at VHUP, and from lambs to stallions at New Bolton Center. Each hospital has facilities tailored to the special needs of its patients.

At VHUP hospitalized animals are cared for in wards on the third floor of the new hospital. At New Bolton Center patients are accommodated in barns. VHUP's patients are housed in large stainless steel cages or in runs, depending on their size. This facility is divided into wards. At New Bolton Center the animals are housed in large stalls; there are five barns which serve as wards, four for equines and one for bovines.

Each hospital also has a full-time cleaning staff. At VHUP cages are cleaned and disinfected daily. The stalls at New Bolton Center are cleaned daily. Here the feeding of the animals is handled by the nurses' assistants, at VHUP the nurse-technicians feed the patients.

Both hospitals have a director of nursing. Carole Contel, who is in charge of the intensive care unit at VHUP, directs the nursing staff. This does not include the nurses on duty in the operating rooms, who are under the supervision of Edna Wooters, R.N. At New Bolton the director of nursing is Sue Lindborg. Her staff not only works in the wards but also rotates through the operating rooms and the clinics.

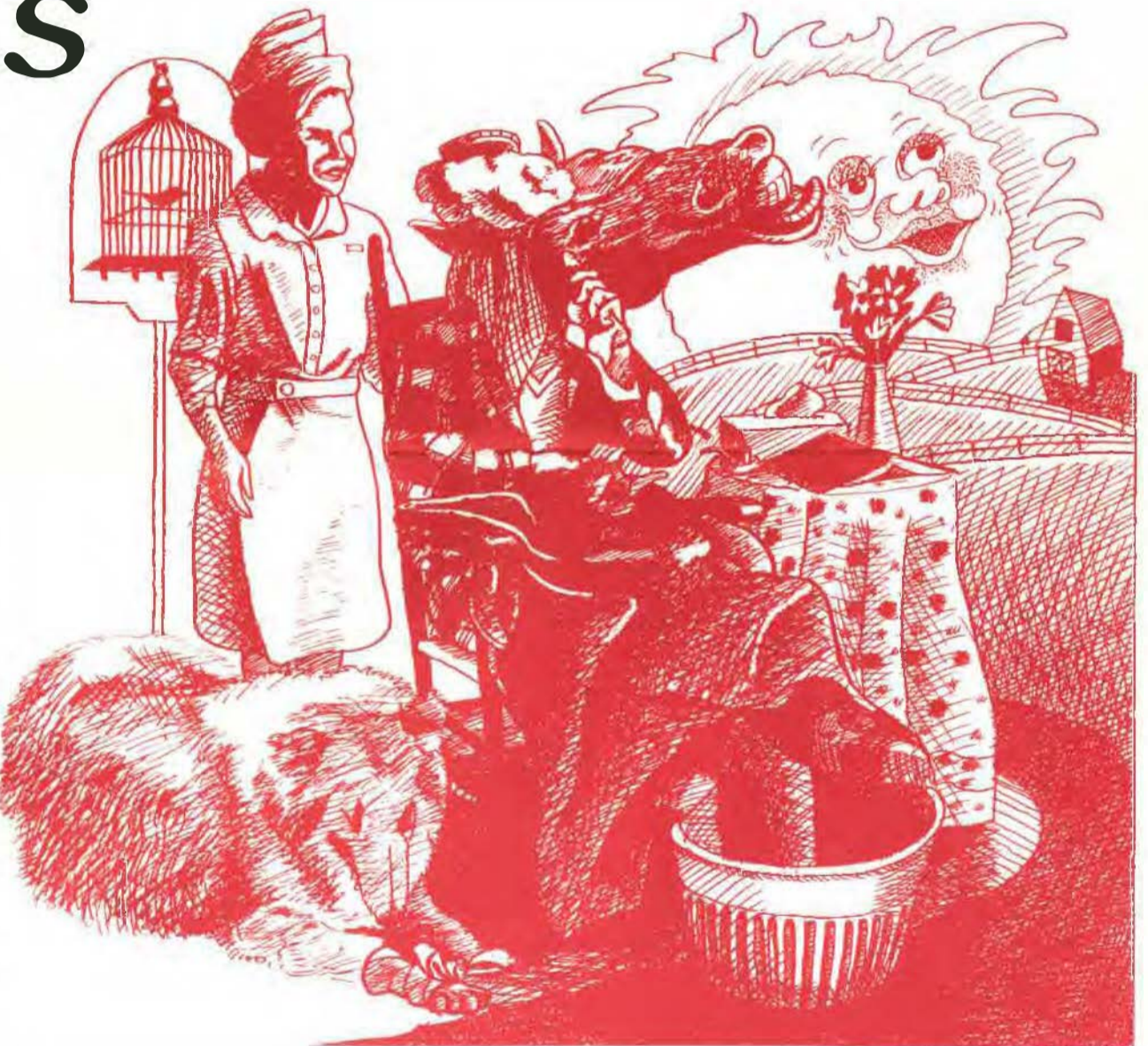


ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL TRINSEY

"We have five full-time nurses here in the ward," said Tinamarie Gilbert, head nurse and staff nurse supervisor at VHUP. "The nurses are on duty during the day in the wards and around the clock in the intensive care unit. During the night students and nurse-technician students from Harcum Junior College are on duty in the wards. The Harcum students work with us during the day and we train them."

New Bolton Center's nurse-technicians are on duty from 8 a.m. until midnight. "For intensive care cases we call in one of the three intensive care nurses who works part-time," said Sue Lindborg. The nurse-technicians at both hospitals have a multitude of duties. "Our nurses give general nursing care, they give medication, physical

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### *Penn Annual Conference—1984 Change of Date and Location*

The new dates for the 1984 Penn Annual Conference are Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, 1984. The new location is the Franklin Plaza Hotel, Two Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia, PA. For further information contact: Ashra Markowitz, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3800 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104. Call (215) 898-4234.