

Aquavet® Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Aquavet®, conceived in 1976 by a group of faculty members from Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a scientific conference and an alumni reunion November 14 to 17 at Woods Hole.

Of 602 *Aquavet* alumni more than 80 attended. There were presentations of posters and papers and plenty of time to rediscover Woods Hole, tour the facilities and look at the new quarters of the Laboratory of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology.

Saturday evening featured the traditional *Aquavet* Clam Bake/Lobster Boil and keynote speaker Dr. Richard M. Linnehan who talked about *Veterinary Medicine and the United States Space Program*.

Dr. Linnehan, an alumnus of *Aquavet* I '83 and *Aquavet* II '90 is the first veterinarian to be a member of the United States Astronaut Corps. He was aboard the Columbia during the longest space shuttle flight, June 20 to July 7. He conducted experiments and served as a human test subject for the life sciences and microgravity investigations. He also carried aboard a specially created *Aquavet* 20th Anniversary flag which was displayed at the conference and now hangs in a place of honor at Woods Hole.

In 1976 a few faculty members at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine were concerned that the veterinary profession did not address aquatic animal health. Discussions about an aquatic veterinary medicine program were held with the scientific community at Woods Hole and the concept received encouragement. In short order, Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine was approached about a joint program at Woods Hole. A New York Sea Grant Institute grant supported the effort and the first 16 students from Cornell and Penn attended *Aquavet* in May of 1977. The rest is history.

Woods Hole is the ideal place for such a program. Here a number of institutions are devoted to marine science education and research. It is the home of the Marine Biological Laboratory, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service, all

major players in the success of the collaborative *Aquavet* program. Each May students from all over the United States and some foreign countries come here for an intensive learning experience. Admission to the four-week program is



competitive. About 40 faculty members, specialists in many aspects of aquatic animal medicine, participate. The program has grown to become recognized as the benchmark veterinary academic program in aquatic animal medicine.

Aquavet I is an introductory course for veterinary students who have completed the basic science portion of their course work. Aquatic animal medicine is comparative medicine and students are challenged to transfer their training developed on dogs or horses to aquatic animals. There are lectures, laboratory sessions, field trips and research projects. It is a very intensive training period. Some students may continue during the summer to work as research fellows, either at Woods Hole or at another location. However, funding constraints have reduced the number of these positions.

While *Aquavet* I is the basic course, *Aquavet* II, established in 1983, seeks to develop expertise in the diseases of aquatic species commonly encountered as laboratory research animals or in the commercial aquaculture industry.

Attendees for this course come not only from veterinary schools but also from government agencies and private industry.

Aquavet's many graduates today hold positions in other academic institutions, they work in governmental agencies and private foundations, have leadership roles in the aquaculture industry, and initiate the training of the next generation of aquatic animal veterinarians. A number return as teachers each May to Woods Hole.

The *Aquavet* program is under the direction of Dr. Donald Abt and the associate directors are Dr. Paul R. Bowser of Cornell and Dr. Laurie Landeau, a Penn and *Aquavet* alumnae. Dr. Abt is also the director of the Laboratory of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology, a diagnostic facility that serves the Woods Hole complex and the fishery industry. This active laboratory conducts research and is the School's third campus. ▀

The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Historical Society Request

Do you have pictures of the area surrounding the Veterinary School? Pictures that you may have taken while at the School? We are looking for pictures taken prior to 1960. The Historical Society is interested in making a collage of these showing what the surrounding community was like in the days of the old Veterinary Quadrangle (also known as "fecal field"). Remember Jack's Bookstore? Perhaps you may have pictures of it.

Please look through your scrap books and mail those old pictures to the P.V.M.H.S., Dr. Dan Bleicher, 1562 Marian Road, Abington, PA 19001 or P.V.M.H.S., Dr. Jack Bregman, RD#1, Delhi, NY 13753.