



Bellwether Magazine

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News

imals are often too ill to wait for an appointment in the regular clinics and are admitted to the specialties through the emergency service. "Many veterinarians utilize this service," Dr. Kirby said. "It is a speedy way of getting a critical animal admitted."

The emergency service sees many species of animals, ranging from cats and dogs to hamsters, gerbils, exotic pets, and wildlife. The latter are transferred to the student-run Wildlife Service at the hospital. Sometimes animals with contagious diseases are brought in and placed in the special isolation unit at the hospital.

In addition to seeing patients, the staff also provides information over the telephone in an attempt to determine whether an illness is really an emergency. "We often can help by phone, but we will see an animal if the owner feels it is a life-threatening situation," Dr. Kirby explained.

Dr. Kirby arrived at VHUP in August from San Diego, California, where she was

one of several veterinary specialists at an emergency hospital. She has restructured the service at VHUP. "We have three rotating shifts, twelve hours each, for the three interns on duty during the week. On week-ends three different interns rotate these shifts. These run from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with an overlapping shift from 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., so that two interns are on duty during the busiest time," Dr. Kirby said. "In addition there are three nurse-technicians who similarly rotate shifts. The nurse-technicians are trained to handle injured animals and perform many tasks, freeing the interns to take care of the critical problems." Students also share the work and are active participants in patient care.

As part of the curriculum, students spend two weeks on duty at the emergency service on rotating eight-hour shifts. They interview the owners, examine the animals, and discuss their findings with the intern or clinician who makes the final diagnosis and

determines treatment. It is an intense learning experience for students and the School is the only one which has a twenty-four-hour emergency service. Because the Veterinary School is located in an urban center, a great variety of cases are seen here making the program valuable training. Many students come from other schools to work in the emergency service to receive this special training.

Dr. Kirby is on call around-the-clock. "Animal illness and injury creates a very emotional situation for owners because it can be acute and is often unexpected. Because we provide quick, efficient service and have a wonderful back-up from the specialties here, owners of the animals feel that everything that can be done is being done."

Emergency service is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and it can be reached by calling (215) 898-4685.

Endowed Chairs

One of the major steps in the evolution of the School of Veterinary Medicine to a position of world prominence has been the development of endowed chairs. The first was the Lawrence Baker Sheppard Professor of Surgery in 1967, and the most recent was the Grace Lansing Lambert Professorship in Cell Biology. The following is a list of endowed chairs and the present occupant:

- Corrine R. and Henry Bower Professor of Medicine (Nephrology): Kenneth C. Bovee, D.V.M., M.Med.Sc.
- Jacques Jenny Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery: David P. Nunamaker, V.M.D.
- Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor of Medicine: Donald F. Patterson D.V.M., Ph.D.
- Lawrence Baker Sheppard Professor of Surgery: Charles W. Raker, V.M.D.
- Mark Whittier and Lila Griswold Allam Professorship: William Donawick, D.V.M.
- Elizabeth and William Whitney Clark Professor of Nutrition: David S. Kronfeld, B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., Ph.D.
- Grace Lansing Lambert Professorship in Cell Biology: Leon Weiss, B.S., M.D.

Bellwether Circulation

Some readers have the impression that *Bellwether* has a restricted circulation within the School and to alumni. Not so! *Bellwether*, which is published quarterly, has a circulation of 12,700 and is

mailed to alumni, legislators, state and federal officials, horse and livestock breeders, dog and cat breeders, and a number of associations devoted to the care and raising of animals.

12,700

China Trip

Dean Robert R. Marshak spent October 23 to November 13, 1982, in the Peoples Republic of China. The invitation for Dean Marshak to visit China was tendered by the Director of the Bureau of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture. More about this in our next issue!

