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The Charing Cross Research Fund

Marie A. Moore Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare

Robert Marshak, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine has announced the establishment of the nation's first academic chair in humane ethics and animal welfare.

The Chair, endowed by Mrs. Marie A. Moore of The Plains, Virginia, will be known as the Marie A. Moore Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare. It will confer an essential measure of recognition and prestige on humane ethics and animal welfare as a legitimate field of scholarship.

Mrs. Moore has devoted much of her life to the welfare of animals. For many years she investigated cases of animal abuse for the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies. She recognized the dire need for an animal shelter in Fauquier County, VA, and established one on her farm in The Plains. For 12 years she almost singlehandedly ran this shelter which took in and cared for 22,870 dogs, large numbers of homeless cats, occasional cows, horses and wildlife. In 1970, when the Humane Society of the United States established a shelter in the area, Mrs. Moore closed the shelter on her farm.

For her animal welfare work Marie Moore was honored by the Washington Animal Rescue League which presented her with the Award of Merit. She served on the President's Council of the Humane Society of the United States and is an honorary member of the Fairfax County Humane Society, the Humane Society of New York and the American Horse Protective Society.

For many years Mrs. Moore bred and raced Thoroughbreds here and in England. She devoted a great deal of effort to the Mastiff breed at a time when this breed was being reestablished after devastating losses of breeding stock during the war.



Marie A. Moore with two of her Mastiffs

Her Book, *The Mastiff*, was published in 1978 providing an overview of the history and development of this breed.

Marie Moore is an AKC licensed judge and her many assignments have taken her all over North and South America, England and South Africa.

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The Charing Cross Research Fund to support research into inflammatory diseases of the dog's central nervous system was established at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine by Gilbert S. Kahn, Miami, FL, a prominent breeder of Japanese Chins and an AKC licensed judge.

"Last year my Japanese Chin, Ch. Charing Cross Quest-Chin-Mark, suddenly became ill," said Mr. Kahn. "At first we thought that he had disk trouble. He was seen by a veterinarian and received medication." The dog did not improve.

"We got a second opinion, the medication was changed, but it didn't help. He died September 5, three weeks after the first signs of illness."

"Marko" had an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system, labeled GME (granulomatous meningo-encephalitis).

"This is a disease that can occur in any breed of dog," said Dr. Sheldon Steinberg, professor of neurology and Chief of the Section of Neurology at the School. "We don't know what causes it, and it is difficult to diagnose in a living animal. Positive diagnosis can only be made through pathological studies after death when we look for characteristic lesions."

Diagnosis is difficult for other reasons.

"Typically the dogs are not systemically ill," said



Dr. Steinberg. "Some dogs may show signs similar to disk disease, as was the case with Mr. Kahn's Marko. Others may exhibit signs which indicate that an area of the brain is affected. Right now there are no certain clinical criteria for the diagnosis of GME."

Mr. Kahn's gift has enabled Dr. Steinberg to study four affected dogs and to begin to devise a treatment method. "We want to develop a basis for clinical diagnosis," he said. "We are performing a number of very specialized tests of the blood and cerebrospinal fluid, looking at cells, protein and

antibodies. We are also doing CAT-scans on each suspected patient. These procedures are quite expensive and would not be possible if we hadn't received the funds for the study."

Concerning treatment, Dr. Steinberg explained "It has been known that patients with GME have a temporary response to steroids. But this is not a long term solution. Our four dogs with GME currently are treated with cortisone and an immunosuppressant drug on an alternate schedule. It appears to be working. One dog has been on these medications since October and it is doing well."

Dr. Steinberg and his group are just at the beginning of his study. "There are many questions to be answered," he said. "Are we dealing with one disease or a group of diseases? What is the cause? How can we better diagnose it? How can we treat it effectively?"

The questions are many. Mr. Kahn's gift has provided the means of studying GME, and this ultimately will benefit the many dogs which contract the disease. "The sudden, unexpected loss of Marko prompted me to fund this study," said Mr. Kahn. "We must find the cause of this dreadful disease. I am pleased that Dr. Steinberg already has been able to help four dogs. Marko's death provided me with the impetus to do something so that others may not have to suffer the loss of a favorite dog."