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## Tucker, a Penn Dog

Drew G. Faust  
*University of Pennsylvania*



## Tucker, a Penn Dog

All his life, Tucker was a Penn dog. When I first started to teach in 1975, he ran away from the house and showed up in my class, and from then on, I just took him with me. He got to know how long 50 minutes was and would stand up and shake to signal me that it was time to stop. And if for some reason I left him home, I'd more often than not find him on the steps of College Hall—or get a call from the Dean's Office to come pick him up.

He had early contacts with the Vet School, too—abdominal surgery after he impaled himself jumping a fence and treatment after a bicyclist hit us both crossing a street. A generation of Penn history and Am Civ students knew Tucker and in 1979 even tried to get him to march in the graduation procession. Right up until his death I still had people I didn't know come up and greet him when we were walking together.

By the time you met him, he had stopped coming to class—the walk to campus was too much—(the lectures too repetitive?). And he knew Jessica had pushed him out of the central spot in family life. But you helped give his life the proper finish—we had a few months to make a fuss of him and help him forget he had lost the center, as well as time to get used to losing him. I'll never have another dog like Tucker. I'll probably never ever meet one, and I have known and owned a lot of dogs. As one of my colleagues put it years ago, Tucker was "a person in a dog suit." He didn't even know how to bark.

Some of his friends asked how they could remember him, so I thought that given his Penn connections and his special connection with you in the end, sending contributions through you was the most appropriate gesture. And I shall join them in hopes that some other deserving mutts may be treated so well—

—Drew G. Faust

*Editors note: Tucker's owner wrote this letter to Dr. Sheldon Steinberg, Professor and Chief of the Section of Neurology at the School. The School has established a memorial program for deceased pets, and the contributions help to provide better care for the animal patients brought to the hospital.*



Dean Robert R. Marshak (center) greets the guests at a luncheon held in honor of the establishment of the Marilyn M. Simpson Professorship in Equine Medicine. Seated to his right is William K. Simpson and to his left University President Sheldon Hackney.

## Dear Friend of the Veterinary School,

You have been our faithful ally, as either a Friend of New Bolton Center, the Small Animal Hospital, or perhaps both.

Your gifts have helped save and protect thousands of large and small animal patients from life threatening disease or injury. As owners, we have all reaped the benefits of your compassion.

You have responded enthusiastically and unselfishly to our requests for support. We know that those of you who have given recently will understand our need for additional support and will accept our thanks for your previous giving.

*But if you haven't given recently, why not now?*

At this time of the year the phenomena of new animal life at New Bolton and the Small Animal Hospital are a fascinating and happy counterpoint to the work of healing.

But accompanying this spate of life beginnings is an increase in injuries. Warm weather always means more activity. All of us feel a little friskier.

And both our hospitals experience an upsurge in cases. Your dogs and cats begin spending more time out of doors and are vulnerable to a multitude of major and minor hazards to their health: paw injury, automobiles, poisoning, botulism. Fleas. Even a fight. Routine visits for testing for such serious afflictions as heartworm and Rocky Mountain Fever account for a significant increase in the Small Animal Hospital's caseload.

Spring also brings renewed anxieties to farmers who may face a devastating year if disease runs unchecked. The latest outbreak of avian flu this past fall continues to haunt the Pennsylvania and regional agricultural economies.

New Bolton Center has been working hard on this major threat. Our researchers are under enormous pressures to accelerate efforts to halt the problem.

Spring is, of course, the time for horse owners to rediscover the pleasures of the track, field, or ring. But here, too, renewed activity brings painful reminders of fragilities in animals of all ages and sizes.

It seems like only yesterday we remember when beloved and celebrated horses were put down for injuries as heartbreakingly simple in humans as bone fractures.

But today, orthopedic rehabilitation surgical techniques developed at New Bolton have large-

ly eliminated the need for such drastic measures.

Yet always new perils arise. The spring of 1986, for instance, marks the beginning of another warm weather cycle we must face with Potomac Horse Fever looming ahead and no proven antidotes to this mysterious killer in sight.

Spring is indeed, a mixed blessing for New Bolton Center and the Small Animal Hospital.

Perhaps you have brought your animal to us at this time last year or maybe the year before. In the two years since then our case load has increased by over 3,000!

No wonder our clinical, teaching, and research resources are pushed to the breaking point.

We need your help.

For our part we pledged that your gifts would be used directly to treat and protect the animals you have entrusted to our care.

But sadly, in accord with this pledge, we will soon have to suspend mailing *Bellwether* to you if you have not contributed to either Friends program in 1985-86.

We would love to continue sending you every issue of *Bellwether*, but due to its popularity the mailing list has grown huge. Printing and postage costs have risen so steeply as a consequence that we cannot afford to send you *Bellwether*, unless we have your continuing support.

Please take a few moments right now and write a check to Friends of New Bolton Center or Friends of the Small Animal Hospital. You will find a return envelope secured in the center-fold of *Bellwether*.

You may be an equestrian, cat fancier, dairy farmer, dog breeder, birdwatcher, first time puppy owner, or elder with a trusted animal companion, but as a Friend of the Veterinary School we think you'll agree that there are no places quite like New Bolton and the Small Animal Hospital.

Your steadfast support will ensure the continued effectiveness of these unique enterprises dedicated to your animals' health.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Richard A. McFeely, V.M.D.*  
Associate Dean For New Bolton  
and Hospital Director

*Barry J. Stupine*  
Director  
Small Animal Hospital

## Scholarships

The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recently made a contribution of \$10,000 to the student loan fund for the 1985-86 academic year.

A donation to the scholarship fund was received from the Chester Valley Kennel Club.

Wayne Johnson and Evelyn Crish, both third-year students, are the recipients of a scholarship from the Plainfield Kennel Club.

Martin McGuire, a fourth-year student, is the recipient of a scholarship from the Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club.

Beth Ann Ferry, a fourth-year student, received the Dr. Samuel F. Scheidy Memorial

Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation. The Dr. Samuel B. Guss Memorial Scholarship, made available by the same organization, was awarded to Steven A. Stake, a fourth-year student.

Steven Wilson, a second-year student, received a scholarship from the Burlington County Kennel Club.

Carolyn M. Glass, a second-year student, was awarded a scholarship offered by the Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association.

A Salsbury Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each was awarded to five senior students: Jocelyn L. Bezner, Margaret N. Bliss, Doris A. Capiello, Giancarla Chieffo, Bonita E. Conard.