



Bellwether Magazine

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Second Century Fund

calm the mare when we treat the foal. We have to make sure that she can see it at all times during treatment, otherwise she may become frantic."



The filly can now rise, stand and walk on her own. She has been moved to the mare/foal stall. A nurse mare has been brought in and is standing in the background behind the movable partition.

If the mare cannot accompany her foal then a foster mare may be brought in to nurse the animal. "These mares are usually very placid and will accept a strange foal," she said. "Though we do have to fool her a bit by putting a scent on the foal and into her nostrils."

The stay at New Bolton Center for a septicemic foal can be a long one. However, Dr. Vaala explained, owners are willing to spend the time and money to save a valuable future race or breeding animal.

The unit does not only see foals with septicemia. Each year a number of very young animals with botulism are seen. This disease, caused by the toxin of the spore forming *Clostridium* bacteria used to be fatal. "We now have an antitoxin which can be given to the animal," Dr. Vaala said. "It will not cure the disease but will stop its progress." Botulism causes an animal to be weak and uncoordinated, it cannot swallow and in advanced cases the breathing is affected. "Such animals need great care and supportive treatment. They have to be sustained until their body has regenerated the nerve endings affected by the toxin. It is a long and labor-intensive process." The staff at New Bolton works with these foals intensively. They are given physical therapy, they are held in a sling to enable them to attempt to stand and they are carried outdoors if the weather is nice. "We use the respirator for these animals and we have been able to pull them through," she said.

Another type of patient seen in the neonatal unit is the "dummy" foal. These foals are normal at birth but within the first twenty four hours they suddenly become disoriented and forgetful. They don't nurse and they wander around the stall. They quickly weaken and require intensive care. "It is believed that this condition, neonatal maladjustment syndrome, is caused by oxygen deprivation during birth," she explained. "Brain cells die and this causes the foal's behavior. If the damage is not too severe, these animals can be saved through intensive supportive therapy."

The neonatal unit at New Bolton Center is small but plans to build a larger unit as part of the new intensive care unit are being completed.

The building is being designed by Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinski and the neonatal unit will have three foal stalls and two larger stalls. Construction will begin this year. The building is funded by private gifts and it will be the first structure to be funded by the Second Century Fund.

Helma Weeks

Second Century Fund

Vincent B. Murphy, Jr., Second Century Fund campaign chairman, reported to the Jan. 16 Board of Overseers meeting that campaign gifts, subscriptions and bequests to the end of 1984 totalled \$15,337,482 or 37 percent of the five-year campaign goal of \$41.5 million.

Among the major new gifts reported was a \$325,000 challenge grant from the Mabel Pew Myrin Trust for laboratory renovations for the Department of Pathobiology. Under the terms of the grant, the Veterinary School must raise the same amount from other new sources by Sept. 1 to receive the challenge commitment.

The School also received an unrestricted distribution of \$129,324 from the Estate of Alfred Rosenthal, and we were informed that an initial distribution of \$100,000 from the Estate of Judith A. Sankey would be made to endow a memorial research fellowship "relating to the care of the diseases affecting dogs and other domestic animals."

The Mrs. Cheever Porter Foundation made a \$10,000 grant toward the proposed Contagious Disease Isolation Unit at New Bolton Center, and the Janet A. Hooker Charitable Trust made two gifts totalling \$15,000 for research in kidney disease and neurological disorders in dogs.

Other gifts included \$3,149 from the American Shetland Sheepdog Association for research into Sheltie Skin Disease; \$1,000 from the Norwich & Norfolk Terrier Club for the Canine Genetic Disease Information System; \$2,000 from the Delaware County Kennel Club, PA, for equipment in neurology; \$1,000 from the Chester Valley Kennel Club, PA, for the scholarship fund; \$1,000 from the Bucks County Kennel Club, PA, for the hospital equipment fund; and \$1,500 from the Rockland County Kennel Club, NY, for canine genetic research.



A nurse is bottle-feeding the filly during one of her walks. She can walk and trot on her own and is ready to be sent home with her nurse mare.

