



Fall 1992

Merck Summer Research Fellowships

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origins of dog painting in Greek, Roman and European art. There is a chapter on dog painting in America. There are over 450 illustrations with 150 in full color. A perfect holiday gift.

Peak Performance - Coaching the Canine Athlete by M. Christine Zink, D.V.M., Ph.D. (Howell Book House, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022, \$25.00)

This is a book for the layperson on sports medicine for the companion dog. It covers the special health needs and conditioning required for the dog to meet its fullest potential.

A chapter on how structure affects function covers physical differences in various breeds and simple details of the dog's anatomy. There are chapters on selection and routine management. There is a recommended format for a dog's record book which includes examinations for hereditary conditions, vaccinations, health checks, weight and medical history. A chapter on lameness classifies the causes as congenital, degenerative, genetic, traumatic, infectious or unknown and discusses these conditions. Nutritional disorders affecting bones and joints are obesity, the effects of feeding an all meat diet, and oversupplementation in large and giant breeds of dogs. Suggested contents for a first aid kit are given.

There is a discussion on performance-enhancing drugs (stimulants, depressants, anabolic steroids, drugs to modify heat cycles and drugs to modify appearance). How strictly should rules be enforced. It is suggested that perhaps it should be permissible and ethical to administer drugs that cure, control or comfort, but any drug giving an unfair advantage in performance should not be permitted.

The final chapter deals with stress and how to reduce it. A stressed dog will become tired and not be able to concentrate on its performance, just as in humans. Abnormal behaviors thought to be a reflection of stress in dogs include self-mutilation, tail chasing, destruction of property and aggression.

The book has a "new" approach to canine problems and should be of interest to dog owners and trainers.

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Shown here are, from left to right: Dr. Jeffrey A. Wortman, assistant dean for academic affairs; Dr. Jan A. Bergeron, V'66, of Merck; Chris Hunsinger, V'94; Leila Worth, V'94; Steve Suter, V'95; Lisa DiPaolo, V'95; Mary Costenbader, V'95; Catherine Mullin, V'95; Jeunine Rubin-Mantione, V'95; Dr. Michael Atchison. Alysia Sinrad, V'94, the eighth participant in the program, is not shown.

The Merck Company Foundation supported eight Merck Summer Research Fellowships at the School this year. The goal of the fellowships is to provide *bona fide* research experience to the students, as a potential career alternative.

At Penn the program is coordinated by Dr. Michael Atchison, assistant professor of biochemistry. "We held a competition, students submitted brief research proposals and the committee selected the participants," he said. "All summer long the students worked on their projects in the laboratories of their sponsors. The group met once a week for informal presentations by faculty sponsors.

"At the end of the summer each student gave a brief presentation of the project and submitted a paper describing the research. These papers will be

submitted to the veterinary students' Phi Zeta Day research competition in the spring. Last year three of the winners at this event were former Merck Summer Research Fellows."

The faculty sponsors of the 1992 Merck Summer Research Fellows were Drs. Mark Haskins, Paula Henthorn, Virginia Reef, Phillip Scott, Gail Smith, Dwight Stambolian, Robert Washabau, and John Wolfe.

On July 17, the students visited the Merck facilities in Rahway, New Jersey. Here Merck veterinarians discussed their career paths and described their current positions with the company. The Penn students also met the Merck Summer Research Fellows from Cornell University, Colorado State University and the University of Georgia.