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Clarification on Retesting for Heartworm Infection

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turc in anesthesia at New Bolton Center, received a five-year Clinical Investigator Development Award from the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH.

Dr. Joan Hendricks, V'79, associate professor of medicine, has been appointed vice chair of the department of clinical studies, Philadelphia. At the American Thoracic Society meeting in May, Dr. Hendricks and Dr. Sigrid Veasey, her graduate student, presented an abstract at the plenary session; it was selected as one of five to be presented from 3,000 submitted.

Dr. Richard A. Mansman, V'68, coordinated the First International Conference on Equine Rescue, held in Santa Barbara, in February CA. The conference brought together veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and emergency professionals from humane and government agencies.

Dr. Sherrill Davison, V'83, assistant professor of avian medicine and pathology, has been elected to chair the examination committee for the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of anatomy, and **Dr. Philip Gingrich** edited a special volume of the *American Journal of Science* entitled *Functional Morphology and Evolution*. It was dedicated to John H. Ostrom and was presented during a special ceremony at Yale in February.

Dr. William Donawick, Mark Whittier and Lila Criswold Allam Professor of Surgery, received the Al and Caroline Schiller Distinguished Service Award for exceptional contributions to the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr. Darryl N. Biery, professor of radiology, was elected to the executive council of the American College of Veterinary Radiologists.

Dr. David Kritchevsky, Wistar Professor of Biochemistry, presented the 19th Annual H. Brooks James Memorial Lecture at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh. The topic of the lecture was: Variation in Blood Cholesterol.

Christine H. Lundy, V'96, received an award from the Trustees' Council of Penn Women.

Dr. Karen Overall, V'83, **Dr. Robert Washabau, V'82**, assistant pro-

fessor of medicine, and **Dr. Urs Giger**, assistant professor of medicine and medical genetics, presented lectures at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association meeting in Birmingham, England in April.

Dr. Jorge Guerrero, adjunct professor of parasitology, has been appointed director general of Merck AgVej in Spain.

Dr. Mark M. Smith, V'82, was recently promoted to associate professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He also received the 1992 Norden Distinguished Teacher Award.

Dr. A. Gary Lavin, V'62, has become president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Dr. Lavin practices primarily at Churchill Downs and is current president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association.

Dr. Alan Kelly, professor of pathology, in collaboration with Dr. Helen Blau, Stanford University, edited a book entitled *Neuromuscular Development and Disease*, published by Raven Press. Dr. Kelly was an invited speaker at the European Molecular Biology Organization Symposium on Muscle Development in Sardinia, Italy in October. He was an invited speaker at an NIH, NIA sponsored workshop on Muscle Reactions to Injury in Bethesda, MD in June.

Dr. John Wolfe, V'82, assistant professor of pathology, was invited to present his work on gene therapy in MPS VII by retroviral and herpes vectors at a meeting at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France in October. Dr. Wolfe was an invited speaker at the Wenner-Gren Symposium on Gene Transfer Strategies in the Study of Brain Damage and Repair in Stockholm, Sweden in June. Dr. Wolfe was given a secondary faculty appointment at the Wistar Institute, and he was appointed associate director of the new Core Center for Gene Therapy of Cystic Fibrosis and Other Genetic Diseases.

Clarification on Retesting for Heartworm Infection

Last spring, the Bellwether published a summary of my talk on screening and prevention of heartworm infection presented at the 1992 *Your Veterinarian and Your Dogs Symposium*. The brief reference to my comments on the subject of retesting dogs receiving heartworm chemoprophylaxis did not fully develop my position on this issue and I fear that it may have conveyed an erroneous impression. Therefore, I want to make sure that my intended message is understood.

Periodic retesting is necessary to ensure that heartworm prophylaxis has been effective. The point I was trying to make is that retesting every year may not be essential for dogs receiving monthly chemoprophylaxis. When monthly prophylaxis has been faithfully and effectively administered throughout the heartworm transmission season, the chances of contracting a clinically significant infection are very small. Therefore, once a dog has been thoroughly tested and confirmed heartworm negative, and there is reasonable assurance of compliance with the prophylactic regime, then retesting every 2nd or possibly 3rd year may be a sufficiently close interval to monitor the efficacy of prophylaxis. So what I am suggesting is that the intervals between retesting of dogs be based on the individual circumstances of each case. When these dogs are retested, reliance should be put primarily on serologic detection of heartworm antigen, rather than testing only for microfilariae. However, to permanently discontinue retesting on these dogs would be a complete abrogation of responsibility.

This proposal does not apply to dogs receiving diethylcarbamazine daily for heartworm prophylaxis. These animals should be tested for microfilariae each year, and at least periodically for antigen as well.

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