



Spring 1992

Puppy Problem Prevention Class

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Recommended Citation

(1992) "Puppy Problem Prevention Class," *Bellwether Magazine*: Vol. 1 : No. 32 , Article 18.
Available at: <https://repository.upenn.edu/bellwether/vol1/iss32/18>

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Puppy Problem Prevention Class

Beginning in September 1992 the Behavior Clinic at VHUP will reinstate its Puppy Problem Prevention Class. Started in the Spring of 1992 with a trial run, it will now be given weekly since it was such a resounding success. The Puppy Problem Prevention Class is not an obedience class; it is a single two-hour session that focuses on normal behavior and the importance of early socialization. During the session clients learn appropriate verbal and physical techniques to correct puppies and how to teach them desired behaviors. Puppies interact with each other in play as a way of illustrating appropriate behaviors and techniques to owners. Additionally, vaccination schedules, heartworm prophylaxis, intestinal parasitism, diet, exercise, neutering v. breeding, and general health concerns are discussed. Clients are provided with handout packages that emphasize the goals of the class. The visit costs only \$25. It includes a complete physical exam, and occurs in groups of no more than six puppies. Preference is given to puppies six months of age and under. Appointments are scheduled on Saturday mornings and can be made by calling 215-898-3347.

As an offshoot of the Puppy Problem Prevention Class the Behavior Clinic at VHUP has received a grant from Miles Laboratories to investigate the extent to which early intervention prevents future behavior problems. 150-200 puppies six months of age or under, are being actively solicited for this study. Puppies will be followed for at least a year. The first appointment will be a standard Puppy Problem Prevention Class; thereafter, re-exam appointments will be scheduled every three months. Clients will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their puppy's behavior prior to the first appointment. This same questionnaire will be completed at three-month intervals during re-exams. All puppies will be videotaped while being asked to perform specific behaviors separately and in groups during all exams.

Some puppies will be fitted with PROMISE System canine head halters without cost to the client. Clients will complete a weekly one page diary of puppy activities and will discuss any questions they might have with an assistant in the clinic on a weekly basis. There is an initial \$25 fee for the first class; however, clients choosing to participate in the study will receive the following free of charge: DHLPP and rabies vaccines for the duration of the study (including any incomplete puppy vaccines), twice yearly fecals and appropriate medications, and annual heartworm tests. Initial appointments are 2 hours and are on Saturdays. Follow-up appointments are 1/2-1 hour and are usually on Saturdays, but can be at other times to accommodate clients schedules. Referring veterinarians will receive periodic updates on patient's progress. For information and/or to schedule an appointment, please call 215-898-3679.



The School had a booth at the International Seafood Show in Boston in March to promote the Aquavet Program and the Laboratory for Marine Animal Health at Woods Hole, MA. Our participation and the display were made possible through contributions by Mr. Robert Haig, Mr. Lewis Heafitz, Mr. Michael Sandler, and Mr. William Schawbel. Shown here, manning the booth, are Mr. Jeffrey Roberts, Dr. Robert Bullis (standing) and Dr. Donald A. Abt.

Computer Model to Assist Residue Avoidance

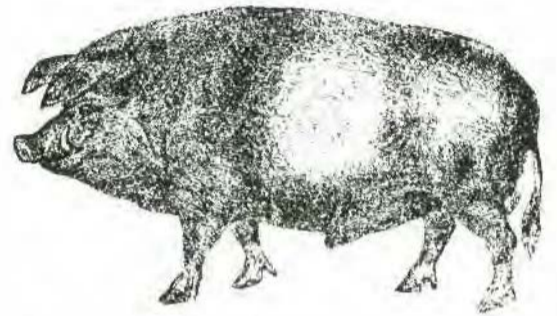
Drug residues in food products are a concern that producers and consumers share. Antibiotics must occasionally be given to food producing animals to treat an illness or prevent disease from occurring. After treatment, these animals must be with-held from market for a number of days to permit excretion of all remaining drugs from the body, thus preventing residues in meat or milk when the animals is marketed.

The with-holding time depends on the species of animal, the antimicrobial drug used, the dosage, and the duration of treatment. The proper with-holding time as determined by the company marketing the drug is displayed on the drug label; however, it is specific for one given dosage rate and duration of treatment. Occasionally, veterinarians must prescribe a higher dose or longer duration of treatment, and in those cases with-holding time is often based on an educated guess and premarket testing samples.

Now researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Raymond Sweeney, have developed a computer model that can accurately

predict the levels of antimicrobial residues in hogs. Given the dosage and duration of treatment, the model can calculate when drug residues will disappear from the animal. The model was developed for sulfamethazine, a frequently used antimicrobial in hogs, and with further studies may be extended to other drugs in hogs and dairy cattle. This research is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

This model could prove to be a valuable tool not only for livestock farmers and veterinarians, but also to regulatory agencies and drug development companies that determine the proper with-holding times for antimicrobials.



Penn Annual Conference

The 1992 Penn Annual Conference was a great success and we offer our thanks to the 750 veterinarians, 155 technicians and 80 exhibitors who

attended. A special thanks to the following exhibitors who sponsored lectures at the Conference:



A.J. Buck and Son



Hills Pet Products



DVM Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Peterson Imaging, Inc.



Pitman-Moore, Inc.



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The 1993 Penn Annual Conference will be held at the newly-renovated Adam's Mark Hotel on Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21, 1993. We hope to see you there.