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Philly PAWS

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The PAWS in Philly PAWS stands for Pets Are Wonderful Support.

PhillyPAWS was founded to help people with HIV/AIDS in daily and special care of their pets and is modelled after similar organizations in New York and San Francisco. "Pets are very important in the lives of people with HIV/AIDS," explained Dr. Robert Moffatt, V'87, one of the founders of PhillyPAWS. "Without PhillyPAWS many of such people may have to give up their beloved animal companions. We help those we serve to keep their pets with them for as long as possible, at the same time encouraging their pets' good health and comfort. Cats, dogs, birds, fish and rabbits are the animal companions most commonly served."

The group's trained volunteers assist owners in such routine chores as feeding and grooming the pets, walking them, and taking the animals to the veterinarian if needed. They may also provide short-term foster care for animal companions, during periods of hospitalization of their owners.

"The most requested services are monthly food delivery and veterinary care," said Dr. Moffatt. "Right now we have ten area veterinarians and VHUP's Emergency Service participating in the program. Some of the pets are elderly and it is of great importance to their owners to keep them healthy." The veterinarians offer reduced fees for routine and emergency services and some make

house calls. "We try to ensure that people with HIV/AIDS can maintain a quality of life, reducing emotional stress and easing the financial burden that often result after a seropositive diagnosis."

Dr. Moffatt, together with Dr. Susan Westmoreland, V'91, at the invitation of SCAVMA, came to VHUP to explain the program and to recruit student volunteers to help. The interest was great and more than 40 students signed up for volunteer positions. But, as the number of animal companions registered with PhillyPAWS increases, more volunteers are needed. Those interested can contact the organization at 1234 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. ■

Dr. William Boucher

Dr. William B. Boucher, V'40, emeritus professor of medicine, died in January, 1994. After graduation Dr. Boucher joined the faculty as assistant instructor in veterinary medicine. He remained on the faculty continuously until his retirement in 1981.

Dr. Boucher's work was devoted almost entirely to teaching medicine and to clinical service in the large animal hospital and field service. He served as chief of medical service, New Bolton Center, from 1967 until 1979. Above else, Dr. Boucher was an outstanding teacher who earned great respect and love from his students.

Beginning in 1940 and continuing until 1968, he was in charge of field services and provided many memorable moments for students on clinical calls to farms. He was especially astute in physical examination and diagnostic procedures.

Dr. Boucher's teaching abilities were recognized in 1968 when he received the Norden Teaching Award and in 1981 when he was the recipient of the prestigious Christian and Mary Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 1979 The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association selected him as Distinguished Veterinarian. In



1985 the School honored him by renaming the field service the William B. Boucher Field Service.

Over and above his contributions as a teacher/clinician, Dr. Boucher, his wife Doris, and their children are best remembered by hundreds of students for their hospitality. The Boucher home was always open to students, interns, and res-

idents, and especially on holidays provided a "home away from home."

John E. Martin, V'42

Contributions in memory of Dr. Boucher can be made to the Doris and William Boucher Scholarship Fund at the School.