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## Avian Influenza

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## New Bolton Center at the American Gold Cup

New Bolton Center will be beneficiary of the 1997 AMERICAN GOLD CUP, a world-class Grand Prix event, to be held September 11 to 14 at the Devon Horse Show Grounds in Devon, PA.

The AMERICAN GOLD CUP attracts the finest riders in the country who will compete for \$150,000 in prize money. The four-day event includes an International Jumper Futurity, Intermediate Jumpers, Open Speed and Ladies Hunter Side-Saddle competitions as well as the \$16,000 Amateur/Owner Jumper competition, the \$25,000 Welcome Stake, a World Cup Qualifier, and the \$60,000 American Gold Cup.

Saturday, September 13, will be dedicated to Dr. and Mrs. Mark W. Allam. Dr. Allam is Dean Emeritus of the School and primary mover behind the development of New Bolton Center. That evening a champagne reception and buffet will be held, with the proceeds of the event donated to New Bolton Center. Tickets are \$100 per person and reservations can be made by sending a check, payable to the Trustees of the University

of Pennsylvania, to New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348-1692; attn.: Ms. Catherine Larmore.

The Celebrity Dog Show also will be held that day at the show grounds. It will be judged by Dr. M. Josephine Deubler. There are no pre-entries, dogs can be entered that day. A children's art show will be part of the day's activities. Free admission is offered to each child under 12 if he/she brings a drawing or painting of a pet. These pieces will be exhibited and judged in the art show. The School's M.A.S.H. tent will be in place for injured, stuffed animals brought in by young owners. Treatments and surgical repairs will be performed by veterinary students, nurses, residents and interns.

New Bolton Center and the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) will be featured in an exhibit highlighting the activities of each hospital. The School's Bloodmobile and the Equine Ambulance will be on view. Numerous shops and food concessions on the grounds

will be open throughout the four days.

Box seats are available at \$300 for a box of six seats, including parking for one car for each day.

Boxes of four seats in the South Stand are available at \$200, including parking for one car each day. Individual reserved seats can be ordered by calling 610-964-9316. The prices follow: tickets for all four days are \$35 each; individual reserved seats for each day are available also, the prices are \$5 for Thursday, \$10 for Friday and Saturday, and \$20 for Sunday, the day of the AMERICAN GOLD CUP competition. A limited number of box seats are available and can be ordered by sending a check, made out to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, to New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348-1692; attn.: Ms. Catherine Larmore.

We hope that many alumni and Friends of the School will attend the AMERICAN GOLD CUP. It promises to be an exciting four days, with lots of fun activities for children on Saturday. 🐾

## Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (AI) is a respiratory disease of many species of domestic and wild birds. Historically, in commercial poultry flocks, turkeys are most commonly affected due to the practice of range rearing and comingling, with wild birds. Only six outbreaks of AI have occurred in chickens in the United States prior to the current 1997 epornitic. The 1983-1984 AI outbreak in Pennsylvania resulted in the depopulation of 17 million birds with a cost to the federal government of \$60 million. In the beginning of the outbreak (April - October 1983) there were twenty-five cases of AI. The virus which was isolated from infected poultry was an H5N2 serotype and was classified as having "low pathogenicity." In late October 1983, the virus changed and mortality in commercial flocks approached 90%. The virus was now considered "highly pathogenic." The source of the virus was never determined, but wild waterfowl were considered the most likely source.

Pennsylvania, along with other states in the Northeast, experienced another epornitic

of H5N2 AI in early 1986. This virus was also classified as having "low pathogenicity." The source of the virus was traced to the live bird market system. This system is composed of growers, dealers, wholesalers and retail markets who sell individual live birds for consumption. The method of spread of the AI virus during this outbreak was believed to be related to movement of personnel and dirty crates.

Control measures have been instituted to reduce the spread of AI virus in the live bird system, but despite these efforts AI virus continues to be present. The type of virus which is now circulating in the system is "non-pathogenic" H7N2. This virus, like the H5 serotype of AI virus, has the potential of changing to a "highly pathogenic" form.

In December 1996, there was a trace back from the AI surveillance program in the New York market system to a dealer's flock in Lebanon County. The birds were diagnosed with AI (H7N2) and were depopulated. Subsequent to that, a flock of commercial layers in the same vicinity was

diagnosed with AI in Lancaster County. A total of 10 layer flocks have been diagnosed with AI ("non-pathogenic") and over a million birds have been depopulated in an effort to eradicate this disease outbreak.

The Laboratory of Avian Medicine and Pathology at New Bolton Center, under the direction of Dr. Robert J. Eckroade, has been instrumental in the diagnosis and control effort during the outbreak. Laboratory personnel have had extensive experience in the early detection and identification of AI. They have been working closely with industry and state and federal officials on a daily basis. Currently, about 900 blood and 150 virus isolation samples are submitted to the laboratory on a weekly basis.

The following are the laboratory personnel who have spent numerous hours in control effort for AI in Pennsylvania: Dr. Sherrill Davidson, Dr. Andre Ziegler, Ms. Kimberly Sprout, Ms. Diana Santillo, Ms. Susan Casavant, Mr. Crescencio Gutierrez and Ms. Alice Mark. 🐾

—Dr. Sherrill Davidson