



1-1-2001

Foal Sitting

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We need your help. Do you have time to volunteer in the Spring (an average of one shift or more per week) and don't mind getting dirty or hard work? Do you like horses and love foals? Are you curious about what cutting edge veterinary medicine is all about? Are you over 16? If so, come and join our neonatal intensive care team as a foal sitter.

Working in the NICU is like nothing you have ever done before. You will be working with critically ill newborn foals (and occasionally other newborns) that are being watched over by their anxious and attentive dams. You may be asked (after being instructed) to "sit" with the foals, insuring that a variety of patient lines (including intranasal oxygen lines, nasotracheal tubes, nasogastric feeding tubes, urinary catheters, and intravenous catheters) are not pulled out. Depending on the time of day you choose to work you will help with a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, which may include catheterization, radiogra-

phy, and ultrasonography. During late night shifts you may be helping us while we work up emergencies or watch us foal mares in our high-risk pregnancy program. Of course, there are more mundane chores as well, such as putting a dent in a mountain of laundry, restocking supplies or cleaning.

The work can be strenuous. There is a lot of lifting and kneeling. You have to be willing to get dirty — changing foal diapers, catching urine, etc. If you are assigned a foal who is hyperactive (as they can be as they recover from mild brain damage) you may go home black and blue and really *feel* your shift the next day. No matter how tired you are or how tedious some of the jobs may seem, it will all be worthwhile when you see your first foal progress from lying in a coma on a fleece lined mattress, to running and bucking at the side of its dam as it plays outside for the first time.

Who are foal sitters? They come from all walks of life. Many are college students who

want to find out what veterinary medicine is all about. Others are nurses from human hospitals, looking for a change of pace. Still others are horsewomen and horsemen from the community who just feel good helping these little patients.

If you are interested email us at <foalsitters@vet.upenn.edu> or call the foal sitter hot line at 610-444-5800, ext. 2445.

Rosettes & Ribbons

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Science Association and the American Association of Animal Science in Baltimore, MD. One presentation was on the epidemiology of Salmonella in Pennsylvania dairy herds and the other was on the effects of rumenocentesis on health and productivity in dairy cows. Dr. Aceto just received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to study the molecular epidemiology of antibiotic resistance in the dual-enterprise farm environment (i.e., swine/dairy or poultry/dairy). The research will focus on bacteria of concern to food safety, notably Salmonella.

Dr. David Galligan, V'81, associate professor of animal health economics, and Dr. Huybert Groenendaal, visiting research associate, presented a simulation model to study the epidemiological and economic consequences of John's disease control programs at the 9th International Symposium of the International Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) in August. They also made a presentation at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Diagnostic System meeting at Penn State in October.

Dr. Zhengxia Dou, assistant professor of nutrition and animal health economics, gave two presentations at the joint meeting of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Association of Small Animal Science in Baltimore, MD. She also presented two papers at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Dou received two grants, one from the Environmental Protection Agency: Chesapeake Bay Program to study chemical amendments for reduced N and P losses from animal manure; the other from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to study power plant fly ash materials as bedding amendments for estrained bacterial growth and reduced nutrient losses.

Dr. E. Neil Moore, professor of physiology in medicine, gave a seminar on "Electrophysiological Mechanisms Causing Cardiac Arrhythmias" to the biomedical engineering faculty and students at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ in October. In November, Dr. Moore presented the keynote address at the Fall Symposium of the Society of Toxicology, held in Nutley, NJ.

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