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Penn Veterinary Alumni Help on Navajo Reservation

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by Dr. Theodore Robinson, V'74

A group of four veterinarians, all graduates of Penn, recently traveled to the Crown Point Navajo Reservation just north of Gallup, N.M. to provide veterinary care.

The week-long project was co-sponsored by Americans for Native Americans (ANA), located in Doylestown, Pa. and the Bucks-Montgomery Veterinary Medical Association, a constituent of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical



Dr. Ted Robinson instructing veterinary technicians on techniques of preparation and procedures for feline neutering.

Association. The volunteer group performed various veterinary medical procedures on the dogs, cats, horses and cows owned by the Native Americans living on the reservation. The veterinarians also conducted educational seminars.

The group consisted of **Dr. Michael Tomasic, V'85**, assistant professor of anesthesia, **Dr. Sherry Talowsky, V'75**, and **Dr. Joseph Raught, V'63** of New Wilmington, Pa., and **Dr. Ted Robinson, V'74** of Richboro, Pa. Dr. Robinson is vice president and programs chairman of the Bucks-Montgomery VMA and he organized the entire project.

The objectives of the group were three-fold:

Animal Crackers *continued*

six weeks, repeated every two to three weeks until they are sixteen weeks old.

Infection is oral and usually results from exposure to contaminated soil. Keeping puppies inside does not keep them protected. Early vaccination is necessary to control the disease. Treatment frequently requires hospitalization and intravenous fluids because of dehydration.

1. To educate the Native American population about the proper care and management of their pets and livestock.
2. To work with and help with the education and training of the veterinary technician students attending the Crown Point Institute of Technology.
3. To help with animal population control and medically treat the reservation's equine population.

To accomplish this lectures and workshops were held on the reservation in the evenings on various aspects of equine, bovine, sheep and goat health management. All residents and veterinary technician students were invited to attend. The veterinary technician students participated in all aspects of large and small animal health care including preventative medicine. They assisted in all surgical procedures that were performed by the four veterinarians. The volunteers performed 166 spays, neuterings and vaccinations of pet animals during their stay and more than 300 horses were treated for internal parasites and dental problems.

Four veterinary drug and supply companies donated the supplies that made the project possible. They were: Fort Dodge Laboratories, Pfizer Animal Health, Penn Veterinary Supply, and the W.A. Butler Co. The supplies included vaccines, anesthetic drugs, worming medications, suture material, surgical gloves and drapes, parasiticides, etc.

In conjunction with the project, four of the Crown Point veterinary technicians students came to Bucks County for internships at various veterinary practices.

All agreed that the project was extremely successful. To that end, ANA and the Bucks-Montgomery VMA will sponsor additional volunteer trips in the future, with the long term goal of obtaining official AVMA accreditation for the veterinary technician school at Crown Point.



Dr. Michael Tomasic, Clint Blalock, Joseph Raught, Sherry Talowsky, and Ted Robinson. Dr. Blalock, Gallup, N.M., directs the veterinary technician program on the reservation.

Annual SCAVMA Auction

The annual **Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) Auction** will be held on Friday, December 7, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. The location of the event is to be announced. Everyone is invited to support the auction!

The annual SCAVMA auction is a popular event for the entire School community. Proceeds from the Silent Auction help to fund student travel expenses to the annual National Student AVMA Symposium. Proceeds from the Live Auction help to fund SCAVMA events and the new SCAVMA Scholarship Program. The scholarship program awards two \$2,500 scholarships annually for third- and fourth-year students. They are selected based on their service to the School, academic standing, and financial need.

The mission of SCAVMA is to increase the quality of veterinary student life through educational, social and cultural extracurricular activities. For more information on the auction or to donate auction items, contact J. Seth Eaton, V'04, Auction Co-Chairperson, via e-mail at <jseaton@mail.vet.upenn.edu>.

