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School Highlights

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First companion animal teaching hospital in US.

1880s

Dr. Leonard Pearson uses tuberculin testing to control bovine tuberculosis.

1890s

Penn Vet holds first veterinary continuing education conference for practitioners.

1900s



The first brucellosis-free herd of cattle in the U.S. is established by **Dr. Ernest C. Deubler, V'11** (pictured left).

1920s

The presence of avian influenza virus in the U.S. is detected by **Dr. Evan L. Stubbs, V'11** (pictured right).

Dr. Stubbs begins series of papers on leukemia in chickens; his research with **Dr. Jacob Furth** leads to the isolation of a strain of avian leukemia virus called Strain 13.

1930s

Dr. Alfred Kissileff, V'33, successfully produces a calf through artificial insemination, the first in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Otto Stader invents the "Stader Splint," consisting of adjustable metal rod with steel pins at each end for insertion in bone above and below fracture. The splint eventually was adopted for treating fractures in human patients, including soldiers during World War II.

Dr. Josephine Deubler, V'38, becomes the school's first female graduate.

Dr. David K. Detweiler and **Dr. John T. McGrath, V'43**, begin to develop their specialties in veterinary cardiology and neuropathology, respectively.

1950s

New Bolton Center becomes the school's large-animal campus.

Dean Mark Allam reports that in one decade the school's research efforts had grown by 2,200 percent. The increase was due to the ability of the faculty to attract funds, and to the rearrangement of teaching responsibilities so that most basic science faculty had one semester free for research. With the growth of clinical faculty, even more research time became available.

1960s

The Georgia and Philip Hofmann Research Center is established at New Bolton Center to conduct research on the reproductive systems of animals.

Penn Vet receives a training grant for the VMD-PhD Program from the National Institutes of Health. In collaboration with the medical faculty, the school trained the profession's first full spectrum of clinical specialists as well as large numbers of veterinarian-scientists.

Drs. Robert Brodey and **Lonny Rubin** start the veterinary specialties of oncology and ophthalmology, respectively.

First veterinary Section of Medical Genetics is established at Penn Vet.

The school introduces a revolutionary core-elective curriculum.

1970s



Dr. Dean Richardson with 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro as he is lifted from the recovery pool. Photo by Sabina Louise Pierce.

The Comparative Cardiovascular Studies Unit, the Section of Medical Genetics, the Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, the Center for Food Animal Health and Productivity, Aquavet (a program in aquatic veterinary medicine) and the Bovine Leukemia Research Center—all firsts—are created and well funded. Many serve as multi-disciplinary models emulated by other veterinary schools.

Dr. Jacques Jenny establishes the specialty of orthopaedic surgery in horse development and use of a recovery pool for equine orthopaedic surgery, the first in the world, at New Bolton Center.

1980s

The world's first test-tube calf, Virgil, is born. The research team is headed by **Dr. Benjamin G. Brackett**; this work has had significant impact on embryo transfer in livestock production.

The first transgenic animals are developed. A team led by **Drs. Ralph Brinster, V'60, GR'64, HOM'66**, and Richard Palmiter fuse elements of a gene that can be regulated by dietary zinc to a rat growth-hormone gene, and inject it into fertilized mouse embryos. The resulting mice, when fed with extra zinc, grow to be huge, and the technique paves the way for a wave of genetic analysis using transgenic mice.

The Inherited Eye Disease Studies Institute is established by **Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, C'66, V'68, GR'75**.

The Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission establishes the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System at NBC to provide rapid and accurate diagnostic assistance to veterinarians involved with food-fiber animals, equine, aquaculture and wildlife. It protects animals and humans from health threats and minimizes economic loss by providing accurate diagnoses to assist Pennsylvania's agricultural community in controlling disease.

Dr. Mattie Hendrick, V'78, provides the first link between vaccination and the development of fibrosarcomas in cats.



Drs. Palmiter and Brinster are shown at their first meeting in person, in Dr. Brinster's office at Penn Vet in Philadelphia, in 1981. Photo courtesy of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

1990s

Connelly Intensive Care Unit/Graham French Neonatal Section, the first building designed specifically for the care of critically ill large animals, opens at New Bolton Center.

First animal bloodmobile in the world enters service at Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital.

Medical genetics researchers develop first allele specific test for an inherited disease in domestic animals.

PennHIP, a new diagnostic procedure for canine hip dysplasia, is established by **Dr. Gail Smith, V'74, GR'82, MTE'70** at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital.

A team at NBC under the guidance of **Dr. Jim Ferguson, V'81, HOM'95**, develops the concept of systematic breeding of dairy cows in an integrated program, a novel strategy then that is the basis of many programs employed throughout the global dairy industry today. The Marshak Dairy, the first greenhouse-style dairy complex in Pennsylvania, is dedicated.

The Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology Research is established. The center acts as a facilitator and works closely with other centers within the school and across campus to develop broad-based clinical oncology and interdisciplinary cancer research and training programs.

Gilbert S. Kahn endows the first deanship in veterinary medicine in the world.



Donna Oakley, director of the Penn Vet animal blood bank, with blood donor Gabe and the bloodmobile.



Gilbert S. Kahn.

2000s

New swine facility fostering the latest human methods in swine rearing opens at New Bolton Center.

The Veterinary Business Management Association begins as a stand-alone organization founded by three Penn Vet students.

In collaboration with Cornell University researchers, Dr. Aguirre's team is the first to restore vision in a blind dog using gene therapy.

Penn Vet pioneers the introduction of genetically modified and in vitro grown spermatogonial stem cells into the testis of a sterile mouse. The foreign gene introduced through the male germ cells glows under ultraviolet light in the photograph of transgenic mice. This technology will provide a type of biological immortality to males of many mammalian species.

The university launches the Institute for Regenerative Medicine housed at the school, a new cross-disciplinary endeavor to investigate and harness the therapeutic potential of stem cells in treatment of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, degenerative diseases, wound healing and aging. **Dr. John Gearhart**, who led a research team that first identified and isolated human embryonic stem cells, is named director of the institute.

The Veterinary Center for Infectious Diseases is established. The center is committed to improving the health of animals through research on infectious diseases and is home to expertise in virology, bacteriology, parasitology, immunology and epidemiology.