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Penn Vet Participates in the MLK Day of Service With Community Pet Vaccination Clinic

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100+ dogs and cats received free vaccinations and physical exams.

More than 100 dogs and cats in the Philadelphia area received vaccinations and physical exams as Penn Vet launched its first-ever vaccination clinic in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day of Service activities in the city.

“We are pleased we could provide a much-needed service in underserved communities while helping limit the spread of infectious disease,” said organizer **Dr. David Holt**, chief of surgery at Penn’s Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. Dogs as large as Saint Bernards and as small as papillons waited patiently for their turn in the hospital’s lobby. Some people brought more than one pet, and no one was turned away.

More than 50 volunteers, including faculty, staff and students, as well as local veterinarians were on hand to assist with the event. Local media, including KYW and WCAU, promoted the clinic, and many people came after seeing the event posted on-line on such Web sites as Craigslist, Philadelphia City Paper and Philly Freecycle.

The vaccination/wellness clinic will help decrease the incidence of several preventable infectious diseases, including rabies, in the pet animal population. Several cases of rabies have been reported in the greater Philadelphia area in the last few years. Rabies is transmissible to people and an important public health concern. The clinic will raise the community’s awareness of the importance of appropriate veterinary care and promote the importance of animals in society. ♡



Alumni and other volunteers (above) at the vaccination clinic included:

- Davis Diehl, V'83
- Diane Eigner, V'80
- Julianne Grady, V'96
- Hillary Israeli, V'00
- Elizabeth Knighton, V'00
- Michael Moyer, V'90
- Laura Trembl, V'94, GR'08
- Jackie Martin, V'96
- Carrie McCloskey, DVM