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## Obituaries: Gilbert S. Kahn and Peter Widener Wetherill



### Gilbert S. Kahn

**G**ilbert S. Kahn, a long-time member of the School's Board of Overseers, passed away suddenly on February 22 at the age of 81 at his home in Palm Beach, FL.

Mr. Kahn, a member of the Annenberg family, endowed the first deanship in veterinary medicine in 1993 when he established the Gilbert S. Kahn Deanship at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine. "Gilbert was intensely proud of his distinctive relationship with the School," said Dean Emeritus Alan Kelly, the first incumbent to bear his name. He had a great love of animals and was deeply interested in improving the health of dogs and supported many areas of canine research, particularly neurology.

Mr. Kahn also contributed generously to the Deubler Scholarship Fund and the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory at the School. "Gilbert was such a devoted dog-lover and such an expert breeder that he seemed to embody an entire generation. As with losing Jo Deubler, my personal sadness is compounded by the sense that the dog world has lost a giant," said Dean Joan Hendricks.

A breeder, owner and judge of show dogs, Mr. Kahn exhibited top-winning Shih Tzus that were multi-best in show winners and national specialty winners. Mr. Kahn also exhibited and bred Japanese Chins, Norwich Terriers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. He took great pride in the fact that his winning dogs were successful generation after generation and that some of the current winning Shih Tzus trace back to his winning dogs. He had a remarkable, encyclopedic memory of the breeding history of all these animals.

Mr. Kahn was also an AKC-licensed judge for all toy breeds, a number of terrier and non-sporting breeds and Best in Show. He judged at the major dog shows in the United States, among them Westminster.

Gilbert Kahn will be fondly remembered at the School and our Deans will proudly carry his name far into the future.

### Peter Widener Wetherill

**O**n Friday, February 19, 2010 the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine lost a dear friend with the passing of Mr. Peter Widener Wetherill in West Palm Beach, FL.

Mr. Wetherill was a loyal and generous supporter of Penn Veterinary Medicine, especially New Bolton Center. In addition to his support through the American Gold Cup and New Bolton Center's benefit luncheons at Saratoga Race Track, Mr. Wetherill often hosted elegant receptions at his homes in Saratoga and Wellington on behalf of New Bolton Center. He also gave generously to the Hill Pavilion Teaching and Research Building in Philadelphia, and had expressed a keen interest in supporting the expansion of the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center – the hospital that bears the name of one of his cousins. Mr. Wetherill's belief in the importance of excellent veterinary care for the horse very well demonstrated through his support of Penn Vet.

Mr. Wetherill was a native Pennsylvanian, a member of one of Philadelphia's pre-eminent families that contributed so much to the development and prosperity of the region. Raised with his brother Cortright Jr. by his parents, Ella Widener Wetherill and Cortright Wetherill, Sr. on Happy Hill Farm in Newtown Square, Mr. Wetherill grew up to be an avid and accomplished horseman and equestrian. He won numerous national championships on such well-remembered horses as *Junior League*, *Desert Storm* and *Hudson*. More recently, his great horse *Cedric*, ridden by Laura Kraut, earned a gold medal in Beijing at the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. Mr. Wetherill also campaigned his wonderful jumper, *Anthem*, a member of the International Nations Cup efforts for decades.

Mr. Wetherill will be remembered by all who knew him as a kind, generous and gentle man who loyally and generously supported the things about which he was passionate. At Penn Veterinary Medicine we recall his quiet, unassuming ways and his wish to help horses and benefit their welfare through the support of veterinary medicine. We will surely miss him and his devoted friendship. 🐾