10-1-2009

Bellwether 71, Fall 2009

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Truly One Medicine
Clinical Trials at Penn Vet
contents fall 2009

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about the cover:
Dr. Dottie Brown examines Rocky, a participant in a clinical study.
As dean, I spend a tremendous amount of time speaking to humans about the importance of animals. I speak to legislators concerned about the health of agriculture and food sources. I speak to advocates of animal welfare. I speak to clinicians, students and alumni who want to integrate the most innovative research into their practice. I speak to pet owners and advocates who care deeply about the fate of the animals that bring such meaning to our lives.

The nature of the bond between humans and their animal companions is endlessly interesting—especially to those of us whose lives are centrally enriched by our connections to animals. Consider my current canine companion—the cleverly named “Rocky”—the goofy, conformationally challenged English Bulldog pictured below. I first met him across a crowded room at Penn Vet’s Intensive Care Unit. He was a happy 12-week-old puppy with pneumonia. Our eyes met and our connection was instantaneous. He was, and is, a completely winning dog; his only apparent interest (beyond food) is to make sure that he is first in the hearts of his people. I immediately said, as a joke (everyone knows my weakness for English Bulldogs) that if his owners wanted to give him up for adoption I stood ready to serve. By the next morning, this had come to pass. That was six years ago.

Why this dog? Why does seeing him make me happy every day? I’ve had personal reasons to think about the mutual love affair between dogs and humans. Fate brought my family not one, but two lost dogs in the last few months. My husband — always leaping at the chance to save animals — has a quick eye and a quick way with a motor vehicle. So when we found two dogs during family outings, I was able to get each dog into custody without delay or trauma. We then waited anxiously to see if our calls to local police, shelters, vet clinics, and our postings on the web would yield a happy ending; both did — both totally satisfying as the families and dogs were reunited. There was much species-specific evidence of happiness: tail wagging, leaping, hugging, and tears. So here’s what I find amazing: during the few days it took to find each dog’s family, we bonded to these two very different dogs (neither was an English Bulldog or even close!). It was a real loss to let each dog go but also a profound delight to see them snap back into place with their real families.

Over the last months, many of you have helped us reach out to the governor of Pennsylvania and to the legislators of the Commonwealth to make our case for support as we faced unprecedented short-falls in state funding. The case we have made for Commonwealth support rested primarily and rightfully on Penn Vet’s critical assistance to agriculture and public health. The vital nature of veterinary medicine to agriculture and public health can not be overstated.

However, for thousands of Bellwether readers there is a more tangible and personal case for supporting Penn Vet. It is that the animals that occupy our homes are absolutely essential to us and to our well being.

In fondness for all you do—friends, clients, alumni—on behalf of the large and small animals that make our lives so rich and full of family,

—JOAN C. HENDRICKS, V’79, GR’80
THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Right off the historic courtyard of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine sits a large, sparsely decorated office, broken into a maze of cubicles.

The nondescript nature of this space belies the fact that for the past six years it has served as the nerve center for an array of small-animal clinical trials, stretching from this campus to the bench research facilities of biomedical partners near and far.

Outside, a simple placard announces it as the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center (VCIC). Inside, a blackboard mounted high on the back wall carries an inventory of some two dozen current trials. A cursory review of partner institutions past and present – the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University, Penn State Hershey, as well as nearby Penn Medicine and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – indicates two things: the caliber and aspirations of these activities are high, and most of the intended benefits serve both animal and human patients.

Of the 28 veterinary schools in the United States, Penn Vet is the first to create a research facility dedicated to the immense promise of translational research.

**The Power of One**

The words behind the Penn Vet mission – “Many Species, One Medicine”– represent an understanding that veterinary practice comprises diverse enterprises with a common purpose.

Much more recently, biomedical leaders have latched on to the expression “one medicine” to describe the correlation between many human and animal diseases, especially those found in domesticated animals, primarily cats and dogs. A short list of related conditions includes numerous cancers, infectious diseases, allergies, autoimmune deficiencies, osteoarthritis and chronic pain.

Joan Hendricks, V’79, GR’80, the Center’s founding director and current Dean, was in many ways a perfect fit for such an innovative concept. A passionate researcher who specializes in the molecular basis of sleep regulation and function, she holds a secondary appointment from Penn’s School of Medicine and served as section chief for critical care at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital.

“The best investment we can make as a School and a community is to build our clinical research capabilities,” says Dean Hendricks. “It helps us recruit and retain the best faculty,
When Dr. John Lewis, ’97 went to the 2005 groundbreaking ceremony for the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion, he never expected that just being there would help him break new ground in treating patients with feline oral squamous cell carcinoma.

“It turned out a Penn Vet classmate is married to Dr. Tom O’Brien, a Lankenau researcher working on an experimental squamous cell drug,” says the assistant professor of dentistry and oral surgery. “One thing led to another and we began working together.”

With the support of the VCIC, the two men embarked on a fruitful collaboration. Like many biomedical researchers, O’Brien was looking for an intermediary step between mouse models and human clinical trials to provide important insights into his drug’s potential adverse effects. Lewis sought better options for the usually advanced and often inoperable head and neck tumors he saw in his feline patients.

As with many joint projects, a creative combination of funding underwrites their collaboration, from governmental – the National Institutes of Health – to very personal – a Penn Vet donor, Kathleen Jack, whose cat Bud passed away from a squamous cell tumor.

Across medicine, finding more efficient ways to identify promising drugs is a key goal. Of all the drugs developed, only one in five make it from phase I human clinical trials to the market. Using small-animal studies to identify downsides early on has major advantages: biomedical partners are able to use human resources more sparingly and funders and pharmaceutical companies can target financial resources to those studies that continue to produce results.

Of course, not all human drug development can leverage the advantages of veterinary trials. Those that can Lewis likes to call “sparedels” – a new term he credits to his Penn Vet colleague Dr. Lillian Duda, ’90, an adjunct associate professor of radiation oncology.

“It stands for ‘spontaneous parallel reciprocal models’ with human disease,” explains Lewis. “I think this may soon be accepted shorthand as more and more researchers on the biomedical/human side of things realize translational medicine is the future of bench-to-bedside research. ‘Sparedels’ will always provide you with more information and more advances than experimental, induced cancers.”

In addition to the parallel advances he is achieving with O’Brien, Lewis counts himself fortunate to advance understanding about how his feline patients tolerate medications.

“The VCIC is allowing us, as clinician educators, to perform scholarly activity,” says Lewis. “You’re usually pulled in four different directions at a time – educating fourth-year students, rotating through service, educating clients, teaching residents. Research is like a quiet child – one who deserves more attention but doesn’t always get it. The VCIC has helped change this reality for good – and for the common good.”
relationship with Penn Vet. The pharmaceutical giant embraced the novel concept and the nascent Center set up shop managing a small nucleus of Pfizer animal health studies.

These first trials provided useful primers in navigating regulations and managing the logistical side of studies. “For a canine osteosarcoma study – where our clinic normally encounters just one or two cases a month – we had to find 100 subjects. How do you do that?” Brown found herself asking. “We had to learn, practically overnight, how to creatively recruit participants.”

Connections to community vets, especially alumni, were tapped. Spots were aired on KYW News Radio. Over the course of the year, one by one, the 100 dogs came through the door.

Next followed the need for stronger human resources. The first hire was a nurse/clinical trial coordinator – there are four today – to gather robust data, keep protocols and support reporting. Brown herself went back to school, earning a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology from Penn to ensure greater in-house expertise about clinical trial design, implementation and analysis.

The Center readily tapped into Penn Vet’s own technological resources, from the latest in magnetic resonance imaging to digital and intra-oral radiology, and found an essential on-campus partner in the Investigational Drug Service at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. A “research-only” pharmacy, it has the capacity to compound and dispense investigational drugs.

CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT

The Center staff, comprised entirely of veterinarians, nurses and vet technicians, quickly became expert at working with clients who enroll their companion animals for VCIC studies. At the heart of these relationships is a rigorous informed-consent process for each meticulously designed and peer-reviewed study.

“It’s so important to express the scope, risk and potential benefits accurately so owners and animals both feel protected,” says Brown. “You especially cannot mislead owners of terminal patients. They have to feel motivated to participate.”

One of VCIC’s current clients, George Heath, has embraced the opportunity to enroll Rocky, his beloved 11-year-old Rottweiler, in the osteosarcoma study.

“I found out about the study from my local veterinarian,” says Heath, who lives in Chester County, Pennsylvania — an hour-long drive from Ryan Veterinary Hospital in good traffic but a relatively short trip when measured against his companion’s welfare and happiness.

When Rocky arrived at Penn in March, a limp detected the previous September and first treated with a common anti-inflammatory drug, had turned into a debilitated gait that indicated a great deal of pain. With radiation and chemotherapy the only other options, the VCIC study, which focuses on pain management, was a welcome alternative.

“To me, being part of this study means a lot because Rocky is family. I’ve had him since he was a puppy,” Heath explains. “This study offers better options and Rocky’s doing better. He’s happy and he’s comfortable. If it helps other dogs and even humans, so much the better.”

Each month, Heath and Rocky make the trip to the Penn Vet campus for a physical and a data “dump” from the microchip tag on Rocky’s collar, which constantly tracks his vital signs and behavior.

Beyond these check-ups and information gathering, Heath appreciates VCIC’s human touch. In this case, Molly Love, CW’74, NU’81, GNU’84, is the nurse/clinical trial coordinator who oversees Rocky’s case. “Molly’s always there by telephone or e-mail if I need her,” he says. “She sends reports to my vet right away. I couldn’t ask for more.”
“In fact, I was just telling Molly my vet diagnosed another Rottweiler with osteosarcoma. If that patient needs a reference, I said, call me. I’ll let them know what a great program this is.”

Like Heath, many participants see VCIC as a welcome lifeline, offering up-to-date information, access to novel drugs and techniques, more affordable costs, and, above all, the knowledge that they are helping future generations of companion animals — and now people.

On September 23, 2009, the National Institutes of Health treated the first human patient in its Phase 1 study of the pain management treatment given to Rocky. The study, designed for people with end-stage cancer, is highly restricted in its participation criteria. Early results indicate that the patient was free of debilitating daily pain. Truly, one — translational — medicine.

**BURGEONING POTENTIAL**

From alternative medications to nanotechnology, VCIC never stops seeking new ways to expand what can be accomplished through translational research.

Today, the Center is made possible through gifts, grants and clinical trials. Funding for new trials and advancing the Center’s mission are being sought.

“The first two quarters of 2009 saw more studies initiated than in all of 2008,” says Brown. “As investigators work with us, they realize how much better it is to take advantage of our infrastructure. Owners are happier to know they are advancing science for the future. For us, it’s better all around.”

The Center’s team is happy, too, knowing that, among those cubicles, they are indeed making history. ✌

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**Do you have a dog with…**

... well-regulated Diabetes Mellitus
... bone cancer in need of pain management
... diagnosed with splenic hemangiosarcoma
... mast cell tumors not amenable to surgery
... Or a Doberman Pincher who needs a free cardiac evaluation

Penn’s Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center (VCIC) is looking for you and your dog. Please call us to find out more about clinical trials. Your dog may be qualified to participate in a study at the University of Pennsylvania, Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. For more information call 215-573-0302 or email VCIC@vet.upenn.edu. Please check our website for information about other ongoing studies in the VCIC at www.PennVCIC.org

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**Penn Annual Conference**

**Veterinary Internal Medicine: Piecing Together the Big Picture**

**Penn HIP** — Tuesday, March 2, 2010
**Full Conference** — Wednesday & Thursday, March 3 and 4, 2010
Sheraton City Center Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

**Wet Labs** — Friday, March 5, 2010
University of Pennsylvania, Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital

**SPECIAL KEYNOTE LECTURE BY PENN VET ALUMNI:**
Scott A. Brown, V’82
Robert J. Washabau, V’82, GR’91, HOM’03

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION:**
Through Tuesday, February 16, 2010

**REGISTER NOW AT:**
www.vet.upenn.edu/PAC2010
CLASS OF 2013 BY THE NUMBERS

122 NEW STUDENTS
65 PA (53.3%)
57 Non PA (46.7%)
(NJ = 17%; NY = 9%; MA = 6%;
MD = 6%; CT = 5%; VA = 4%)

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

Biology
47 (38.5%)
Animal Science / Animal Bio Science
32 (26.3%)
Biochemistry
13 (10.7%)
Chemistry
4 (3.3%)
Engineering
4 (3.3%)

LARGE ANIMAL INTEREST
(# of students)
Large Animal / Food Animal Interest = 27
Equine = 8
HIGHEST REPRESENTED SCHOOLS
(# of students) Pennsylvania State University = 11 | University of Delaware = 10 | Cornell University = 5
The University of Pennsylvania = 5 | Rutgers = 4

LEGACIES
(# of students) 6

ADVANCED DEGREES
(# of students) 7 MS
2 PhD

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM
(VMD/PhD) = 3 (students)
Pigs have always been a part of Tom Parsons’s life. Long before the Penn Vet associate professor chose his calling, he learned the finer points of swine husbandry from his father while growing up on the family farm that he jokingly calls “possibly the only pig farm in Massachusetts.”

Decades later, these lessons have come full circle as Parsons, V’86, GR’89, helps Penn Vet lead the way in introducing new standards and practices to the swine industry, while instilling in students a deeper appreciation for animal welfare.

This story began in 2001 when Penn Vet became the first veterinary school to create a physical setting for exploring swine welfare. Today, its Swine Teaching and Research Unit at the New Bolton Center – known as the Swine Center – logs more than 1,500 student hours each year and makes an immediate impact by demonstrating economically viable models for farmers intent on raising pigs in animal-friendly environments.

The best is yet to come. Soon Penn’s Swine Center will incorporate green design, will become a living laboratory that can accommodate more students and more animals, and most importantly, show a wider array of alternative practices.

Penn Vet understands how critical it is to put progressive methods within the reach of American farmers, who face tremendous pressures: producing affordable food from a fixed (or shrinking) farm land base for an ever-increasing world population.

FOCUSBING ON PREGNANT SOWS

Even before ground was broken this fall for the new facilities, developing novel husbandry practices for the care of mother sows has been at the center of the Swine Center’s ongoing development.

The Swine Center initially concentrated on an alternative to a traditional husbandry system known as the gestation crate. This form of individual animal housing is receiving increased public scrutiny due to the limited mobility of animals reared in it. The “Penn” gestation system allows groups of pregnant sows to be housed in the pig equivalent of a free-stall barn. Individual sows are uniquely identified and their prenatal nutrition controlled with ear tags, each containing a microchip.

At last count, 22 farms, home to nearly 35,000 sows, have adopted the model developed at the Swine Center for managing gestating sows in pens. Most of these farms are located in Pennsylvania, but they can also be found in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Texas.
NEXT UP: NURSING SOWS

While Penn Vet moves forward with research on gestating sows, the novel focus of the newly renovated Swine Center is the nursing sow. The traditional farrowing crate, where mother sows give birth and also nurse their piglets for several weeks, is becoming a topic of increasing concern for animal advocates.

The major goal for the new facility is to create a viable animal friendly alternative to the farrowing crate, while still providing adequate protection for the piglets. Neonatal piglets, like many newborns, are not athletic, while recently birthed mother sows can be very clumsy. With time, this problem diminishes as the piglets’ coordination improves and the mother sows learn to move more carefully. Traditional farrowing crates address this risk by confining the movements of the awkward mother sows.

The Swine Center’s new farrowing facility will revisit this approach. It will be crate-free and rely on specialized areas for the piglets to seek safety from the sow. These farrowing pens require significantly more square footage to implement and provide both bedded laying areas and outdoor access for the sows.

“To our knowledge, such a farrowing facility has never been built in this country,” says Parsons. “We are in the process of understanding how these novel approaches translate to U.S. farming methods.”

EDUCATION FIRST

Alongside the debate in American agriculture about changing with the times, Penn Vet sees a vital educational opportunity: How can the Vet School educate students for a changing agricultural environment?

“Penn Vet community is committed to having a prominent role when it comes to addressing society’s burgeoning concerns about modern livestock rearing,” explains Parsons. “It is important that companion animal practitioners also are well versed on these issues as they interface daily with some of the most concerned segments of our society.”

Philanthropic support, too, is beginning to acknowledge the increasing importance of these animal welfare concerns. Rachel Toaff-Rosenstein, V’09, one of Parsons’s students, will be using her $100,000 Penn Vet Inspiration Award, sponsored by The Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, to pursue post-graduate studies in farm animal welfare.

Parsons knows how important it is to stay out front. “Penn Vet’s job is to continue looking down the road. The next steps – outdoor access, deep-hay bedding and no farrowing crates – will be a part of the new practices here because of the ASPCA’s investment. Now we have to transform these future consumer expectations into a viable alternative for tomorrow’s farmer.”

To help meet the ASPCA challenge contact Kate Judge at 215-898-1482 or judge@vet.upenn.edu.

State | # Farms | # Sows
--- | --- | ---
Indiana | 1 | 5,000
Iowa | 3 | 3,800
Kansas | 1 | 200
Minnesota | 1 | 5,000
Missouri | 2 | 1,600
New York | 1 | 100
Pennsylvania | 10 | 11,000
Texas | 3 | 7,500
**Total** | **22 farms** | **34,200 sows**

**Swine Teaching and Research Unit**

Planned herd size:
> > 200 sows

Current teaching load:
> > 1,500 student contact hours logged per year

Classroom space in barn:
> > 1,000 square feet

New facility space:
> > Addition of 10,000 square feet

New equipment:
> > Swiss designed farrowing pens
> > Latest electronic sow feeder from Schauer Company in Austria
> > Free-access feeding stalls

New welfare features:
> > Farrowing pens
> > Outdoor access
> > Deep-bedded laying areas

Feeding attributes:
> > Individual feeding of group housed sow via micro-chipped ear tags
> > On-site mix mill to ensure flexibility and quality control of feed

Additional features:
> > Computerized estrus detection station
> > Farrow-to-finish capabilities
> > Closed herd with internal replacement of breeding females

Green-energy design:
> > Photovoltaic solar panels, specially designed to take advantage of swine barns’ traditional south-facing roofs

State | # Farms | # Sows
--- | --- | ---
Indiana | 1 | 5,000
Iowa | 3 | 3,800
Kansas | 1 | 200
Minnesota | 1 | 5,000
Missouri | 2 | 1,600
New York | 1 | 100
Pennsylvania | 10 | 11,000
Texas | 3 | 7,500
**Total** | **22 farms** | **34,200 sows**
While most people were enjoying July 4th BBQs and fireworks this summer, the emergency staff at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital was busy caring for an overwhelming number of critically ill animals in need of urgent care. “We are typically inundated with trauma cases during the holidays,” states Sally Powell, nursing supervisor in Emergency Service. “Lacerations, heat stroke, car accidents and firework injuries are very common. July 4th is especially busy because animals are often brought in for high anxiety and stress resulting from the noise from the fireworks.”

This July 4th holiday was no different. Inside Penn Vet’s Emergency Service (ES) was an 11-year-old Shih Tzu who had had a two-week bout of pneumonia and was in respiratory distress; a kitten who was being evaluated for head trauma because its owner accidentally stepped on her; and a two-year-old mixed-breed dog who jumped off a 10-story bridge and was being x-rayed to evaluate the extent of his injuries. Just a few feet away, waiting patiently in the lobby was a Newfoundland whose owners brought him in for dietary indiscretion and vomiting, and a Chihuahua who was experiencing an allergic reaction and itching uncontrollably. Suddenly, the owner of a cat experiencing seizures arrived, the owners had mistakenly treated the cat with a dog-only flea and tick product.

The owners were as diverse as the patients. They came from West Philadelphia, the Main Line and the Jersey Shore, all seeking emergency care for their critically ill pets. “The weekends are the most demanding time for the Emergency Service seeing more than 30 patients a day—about 60 percent dogs, 30 percent cats and 10 percent special species,” says Emergency Services director Dr. Ken Drobatz, GM’02.

Penn Vet’s Emergency Service is the largest and busiest academic emergency service in the world, treating more than 12,000 patients each year. To operate 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, takes a lot of personnel. “In total we have 7 board-certified criticalists, 16 full-time nurses, 10 part-time nurses, 9 critical care residents, 13 interns and 1 fellow,” explains Dr. Drobatz. “In any given day we could have upwards of 4 doctors on duty at one time.”
The mission of the ES is to provide compassionate patient care and excellence in teaching. “The Emergency Service teaches you to work fast and efficiently while maintaining focus,” states Elizabeth Martin, CGS’06, V’11, part-time ES nurse and third-year veterinary student. Virtually everyone in the ES is familiar with each patient. “Teaching is a very important component of the ES—the students are on the front line so they witness first hand everything going on,” says Sally Powell.

“Our students are exposed to a diverse caseload that they may not see at any other vet school simply because of our urban setting,” says Dr. Drobatz. “We have cared for and performed minor emergency surgeries on animals that have been stabbed, shot, hit by trains and/or cars, have fallen from a high-rise building, been struck by an arrow, and hit with an axe. We have also seen animals that have ingested illicit drugs such as cocaine and marijuana, and others who have eaten antifreeze and rat poisoning.”

Within minutes of each patient’s arrival, the animal is assessed by a nurse and/or student. “If upon assessment an animal is bleeding, comatose, has a weak pulse, pale gums, has a urinary blockage, a life-threatening arrhythmia or bloat symptoms, then the animal will be seen immediately by an emergency care specialist,” explains Elizabeth Martin. The animal will be treated, stabilized and if necessary remain in the emergency room overnight until it is transferred to a specialty service within the hospital or to the local veterinary practice the next day. If the animal is in need of ventilation, it will go directly to the ICU for one-on-one nursing care. If the animal is not critically ill, a student will perform an initial exam and discuss treatment options with the clinician preceptors before presenting options to the pet’s family.

About 25 percent of Penn’s emergency cases are transferred to other areas of the hospital. For example, Harper, an eight-week-old yellow Labrador puppy described by her owner as playful, lovable and laid back, suddenly became very lethargic and unwilling to walk. When Harper’s condition worsened her veterinarian referred her owner Beth Henesey to Penn Vet. Harper was in extreme pain when she arrived at the ES. After examination she underwent a series of limb radiographs, blood tests and a lameness evaluation. She was kept overnight on intravenous fluids and pain medication. When her condition was stable, she was admitted to the hospital’s Internal Medicine Service, under the care of Dr. Rachel Cooper. She was ultimately diagnosed and treated for hypertrophic osteodystrophy, a rare bone disease that usually affects rapidly growing dogs and causes severe lameness and pain in multiple limbs. In a few days Harper began to play, wag her tail and crawl to her water bowl. She was homeward bound.

Beth Henesey was pleased with how Harper’s conditions were diagnosed and how she was treated. “All the clinicians are wonderful. Dr. Cooper in particular responded immediately to calls and was very thorough. She had a real connection with Harper and we are grateful we found her and Penn Vet.”

So, the next time you are enjoying a barbecue or holiday celebration, remember that Penn Vet’s ES staff is working 24/7 (and 365 days) to make sure that expert care is available when animals are in distress.
A torrential downpour, a lame horse and a dynamic personality all combined to set in motion an important initiative for New Bolton Center in late spring of 2008. Ilona English, breeder and owner of Summit Sporthorses and Sportponies in Ringoes, New Jersey, brought one of her Oldenburg horses to New Bolton Center for a lameness evaluation. Just as she arrived, the heavens opened and the rain was so heavy that it was impossible to evaluate the horse out of doors. The alternative was to impose on one of New Bolton Center’s generous neighbors, Vince Dugan, and do the evaluation in his indoor facility.

Ilona, who has been a New Bolton Center client and supporter since 1995, is a woman with a can-do attitude and tremendous vision. A multi-talented graduate of Penn’s Wharton School and School of Design, Ilona cares deeply about her animals and wants only the best for them. The frustrating experience with her horse on a very wet day compelled her to inquire as to why New Bolton Center lacks a covered performance evaluation facility and what could be done to rectify this situation. Such a structure has been a long-time goal of Penn Vet’s large animal campus, but because of other pressing clinical, teaching and research needs has not topped the priority list for funding.

With characteristic zeal and great generosity, Ilona provided initial funding for a feasibility study to determine the scope of a covered performance evaluation facility and over the months has continued to be involved in the study’s progress within New Bolton Center’s master plan for an expanded and refurbished large animal hospital. Construction must meet established University of Pennsylvania standards for both site preparation and building materials and Ilona has reviewed plans and suggested ideas for helping to make such a facility more eco-friendly. The indoor arena on her farm in New Jersey incorporates solar panels (providing all of the farm’s electricity needs plus additional income from solar credits); underground cisterns capture rainwater runoff used to water the arena footing and surrounding planting; and specially designed screens protect against extremes of heat and cold, while providing a well-ventilated environment for horses and riders. The NBC Performance Evaluation facility will offer the opportunity to incorporate several such green concepts.

Having this on-site facility immediately adjacent to Widener Hospital will reduce the stress to horses and owners who come to NBC, while making more efficient use of staff and student time; thus meeting the criteria that Ilona and her husband Terry, also a Wharton graduate set for their charitable donations. The structure solves several immediate deficiencies and also provides an ongoing benefit that serves many purposes, now and into the future. Ilona has, therefore, committed a large percentage of the initial funding. Approximately $300,000 will still be needed to complete the building, which will form part of the projected new Performance Evaluation/Outpatient Facility. The new facility will house special procedure spaces, research space and a sophisticated farrier clinic, as well as holding stalls and a smaller covered exercise space and trot-up aisle.

Ilona is a thoughtful and concerned individual who wants to see her gifts to Penn Vet used wisely and in the best interest of equine patients, clients, faculty and students. She enjoys being involved in the projects she supports, and sincerely hopes her support will serve as a catalyst that sparks the generosity of others. She is indeed a new age donor. We salute her for her deep commitment and genuine caring and look forward with great anticipation to the completion of a much-needed building on New Bolton Center’s campus that will benefit our patients and our gifted faculty.

We invite you to join Ilona in raising the funds needed for the Indoor Performance Evaluation Center and to be part of the celebration that will surely take place when it is done! Every donation, regardless of the amount, allows the donor to become a part of this facility.
Dr. Josephine “Jo” Deubler, V’38, GR’44

Dr. Josephine “Jo” Deubler, V’38, GR’44, the first female graduate of the School of Veterinary Medicine, passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 17, 2009. She was 92.

Dr. Deubler hailed from a long family legacy of veterinarians, including her father, Ernest C. (V’1911), brother, James A. (V’1943), uncle, Ezra S. (V’1905) and two cousins, Leonard P. (V’1938) and James. She was also the first woman veterinarian to earn graduate degrees at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving an MS degree in 1941 and PhD in 1944. She served on the school faculty until 1987, keeping an office in the Ryan Veterinary Hospital into the 2000s.

She was legendary within the dog fancy world, and cherished Dandie Dinmonts. She became an AKC licensed judge in 1962 and was the show chair of the Terrier institution, the Montgomery County Kennel Club, since 1977 and show chair of the Bucks County, PA Kennel Club, since 1969. In 1998, Dr. Deubler held the prestigious position of Best in Show judge at the Westminster dog show. She retired her judge’s book after doing the Hound Group at the Kennel Club of Philadelphia in 2000, but remained active with the Westminster Kennel Club into her final years. In 2003, the AKC recognized “Jo” with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The School of Veterinary Medicine established the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory, which is part of a service that encompasses a genetic testing and counseling program in Penn Vet’s Section of Medical Genetics. The bridge connecting the Hill Pavilion and the Ryan Veterinary Hospital is also named after Dr. Josephine Deubler—a fitting testament to connect Penn Vet’s newest building of teaching and discovery, to the small animal Ryan Veterinary Hospital and the historic Old Vet Quad.

Dr. Gerhard “Gerry” Schad, HON’77

Dr. Gerhard “Gerry” Schad, HON’77, Professor of Parasitology in the Philadelphia Department of Pathology for more than 35 years, died after a long battle with cancer on April 25, 2009. He was 81.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Schad earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology from Cornell University in 1950 and earned a master’s degree and doctorate in parasitology from McGill University in Montreal, in 1952 and 1955, respectively.

Dr. Schad worked for the US Department of Agriculture in State College, New Mexico, where he studied the transmission of parasites from wild to domestic ruminants. He then changed his primary area of study from wildlife parasitology to ecological and evolutionary parasitology. After a short time at Johns Hopkins University in the mid-1960s where he ran a parasitology program in Calcutta, India, he came to Penn in 1973 where he became Professor of Parasitology at Penn Vet and a professor in the Graduate Group in Parasitology and of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Group (CAMB) in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Highly published, Dr. Schad gained worldwide recognition as an authority on the population biology of helminth parasites and their behavioral neurobiology, and made significant discoveries about the epidemiology of hookworm, a major tropical disease. In the last ten years of his work, he focused his research on the sensory biology for parasites to help better control parasites in the future.

Of his many awards and accolades, he was most proud of the American Society of Parasitologists’ Clark Read Mentor Award in 2005 in recognition of his sage advice and encouragement of young scientists. In fact, graduate students voted Dr. Schad’s veterinary parasitology course one of the best doctoral courses at Penn.
Rebecka Hess, DVM, DACVIM

**Name:** Rebecka Hess, DVM, DACVIM

**Birthplace:** Boston, MA

**Positions:** Dr. Hess is an Associate Professor of Medicine-Clinician Educator, Department of Clinical Studies, and Chief of the Section of Medicine.

**Research interests:** Clinical and genetic studies of canine diabetes mellitus as well as studies of other endocrine (hormonal) disorders in dogs and cats.

**Beginnings:** “Growing up in Israel, I didn’t know that I would be a vet,” says Rebecka Hess. After graduating from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1988 with a degree in biology, Hess enrolled in the University’s brand-new Koret School of Veterinary Medicine. “It was an exciting time to be at Koret – a great adventure,” she remembers. “There were only twenty students in my class, and very few of them women.”

Dudley Johnston, a veterinary surgeon at Koret who had been a faculty member at Penn, encouraged Hess to seek a position at Penn. “I was thrilled when I arrived in Philadelphia and saw the dazzling resources available here,” she recalls. “I was elated to be part of such an institution, and I still am. It’s heaven!”

**Earning Distinction:** In her first year at Penn, Hess was inspired by working with endocrinologist Carol Zerbe, who helped her with the rare and intriguing case of a cat with Cushing’s disease. Treatment with surgery and medication were successful, and Hess presented the case in grand rounds. Hess laughs as she recalls the grouchy cat: “I know the medication was bitter, because the cat spit it back on me. We both survived.”

Hooked on endocrinology, Hess began to focus her research on diabetes. Today, she runs the Penn Vet Diabetes Program, which has completed studies that have given important insight into understanding common and potentially life threatening complications of diabetes. The program continues to investigate ways of optimizing insulin treatment of our diabetic patients. On-going collaborations with Dr. Paula Henthorn are focused on identification of genetic markers associated with diabetes in Samoyeds and Australian Terriers which are at increased risk for the disease. Identification of such genetic markers in young, unaffected, breeding dogs will enable breeders to determine which dogs should not be bred to one another years before the onset of the disease. This may help prevent diabetes in these specific breeds, and possibly in other dogs. Early collaborations with Dr. Jake Kushner from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia may also lead to new understandings of the pathophysiology of diabetes in dogs.

Her favorite things about her job? Hess is passionate about getting residents interested in endocrinology (she would like to start a diabetic fellowship at Penn Vet), and loves the fact that she gets “to hug and kiss a dog every day.” She walks to work from her home in West Philadelphia and enjoys taking her young sons to feed the ducks at the Bio Pond.

**Recent Publications:**


Dr. Kim Agnello was appointed assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Ryan Veterinary Hospital effective October 1, 2009.

Dr. David Artis, assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiology received the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence which was presented at the Penn Vet Faculty Research Symposium held in June 2009.

Dr. Tracy L. Bale was promoted to associate professor of neuroscience in the Department of Animal Biology.

Jamie DeFazio, CVT at New Bolton Center, received the 2009 PVMA award for Veterinary Technician of the Year for her devoted efforts to advance the vital role of veterinary technology in equine medicine.

Dr. JanLee Jensen, new member of University Laboratory Animal Resources, passed the specialty boards for the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Dr. Erika Krick was appointed as associate professor of physiology – clinician educator in the Department of Clinical Studies – Philadelphia effective July 1, 2009. Dr. Krick currently is the primary investigator on a collaborative Phase I study with the Ludwig Institute at Johns Hopkins University and is completing a Training Program at Penn’s Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Dr. James O. Marx has been appointed assistant professor – clinician educator of laboratory animal medicine in the Department of Pathobiology. He also passed his specialty boards for the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Dr. Nicola Mason, assistant professor of medicine and pathobiology and Dr. Raquel Walton, assistant professor of pathobiology have received a $100,000 award from the Veterinary Center for Infectious Disease for investigation of the infectious etiology of canine lymphoma. Dr. Mason has also been accepted as a member of the Abramson Cancer Center of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Michael May, assistant professor of pharmacology in the Department of Animal Biology, and Dr. Nicola Mason have started a phase one clinical trial to treat canine relapsed lymphoma in conjunction with the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center.

Donna Oakley, director of Penn Vet’s Animal Blood Bank, recently worked with two Berks County, PA community organizations to host the first owner-canine blood drive for the greater Philadelphia area. The canine blood will be distributed to veterinary centers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Dr. Shelly Rankin was promoted to associate professor of microbiology within the Department of Pathobiology.

Dr. Harry Rozmiarek, professor emeritus, was given the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) Lifetime Achievement Award for a career of selfless dedication to veterinary medicine, the health and welfare of animals, and the betterment of the profession.

Dr. Jeremy P. Wang was promoted to associate professor of developmental biology in the Department of Animal Biology.
The Role of NF-kappaB

Basic and translational researchers Dr. Michael May and Dr. Nicola Mason are working together to evaluate the role of NF-kappaB in canine cancer development and the potential therapeutic use of NBD peptide in the treatment of canine cancer.

NF-kappaB effects the regulation of genes linked to immune responses, differentiation, cell growth, and the death of cells. It is found in many solid tumors where it contributes to reproduction of malignant cells and resistance to chemotherapy of malignant cells.

This work has provided the basis for a Phase I clinical trial to evaluate the effects of NBD peptide on NF-kappaB activity in dogs with relapsed, drug-resistant lymphoma. Further details of the clinical trial can be found at http://research.vet.upenn.edu/vcic.

While this trial is specifically for canine patients with lymphoma, the clinical, biological and genetic similarities between canine lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (NHL) in humans indicates that findings in dogs may provide valuable information for humans with NHL.

Penn Shelter Canine Mammary Tumor Program

A team of clinicians at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital led by Dr. Karin Sorenmo, Dr. Michael Goldschmidt, Dr. David Holt and Dr. Michael Moyer, V'90, Rosenthal Director of Penn’s Shelter Medicine Program, received funding from Reid and Krista Buerger to study similarities between canine mammary tumors and breast cancer in women.

Mammary gland tumors remain the most common tumors in intact female dogs and represent a common cause of disease and premature death in dogs around the world. Studies have identified many similarities between canine mammary tumors and breast cancer in women in terms of epidemiology, biology, dietary risk factors and clinical behavior, as well as hormonal association. The development of mammary tumors in dogs is dependent on exposure to ovarian hormones and the tumor risk can be significantly reduced by spaying at an early age. The risk for developing breast cancer in women is also associated with the cumulative exposure to bio-available estrogens, suggesting that similar hormone-driven mechanisms might be linked with breast cancer development in both species.
VBMA Draws on Contrasting Elements to Empower Students

BY CAROLINE CANTNER, V’11 AND NATHANAELE OSTER, V’12

This year marks a decade of success for the Veterinary Business Management Association. Originating in 2000 at Penn Vet as a small student club, it has experienced dramatic growth into a national association with chapters at all 28 U.S. veterinary schools and at four international schools today.

The VBMA’s mission is to advance the profession through increasing business knowledge, creating networking opportunities and empowering students to reach their personal and professional goals. This focus has resonated with students and within the profession and can be credited, along with the dedication and passion of the students involved, with the organization’s rapid growth. What began with a handful of students at Penn has now become an organization encompassing 2600 veterinary students throughout the country and the world. Currently, more than 78 percent of Penn Vet students in the Class of 2012 are participating.

To complement the traditional science curriculum, the Penn VBMA organizes speakers and events that cover both the nuts-and-bolts of traditional business topics as well as the softer skills of leadership and communications.

The Business Certificate Program, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, is unique among the VBMA chapters world-wide. Run by students, Penn’s certificate program offers a series of 14 business-related courses taught by leading veterinary business professionals. Courses range from the softer skills such as communication styles, exam room skills, and employee motivation and management to essential business skills such as practice valuation, marketing and branding, understanding financial statements, and personal investment vehicles.

In addition to the certificate program, the VBMA hosts a variety of events and speakers, which have included Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, C’65 and Richard Teerlink, the former chairman of Harley Davidson. These events are, in great part, made possible by the generous support of Commerce Bank (now TD Bank) and its founder, Vernon W. Hill, W’67.

The 2009/2010 series began with Dr. Micaela Shaughnessy, V’93, a successful relief veterinarian and expert on gender issues in veterinary medicine, providing a lunch forum on the topic, “Gender Economics in the Veterinary Profession.” A dinner workshop is planned on how to succeed in an interview, hosted by Dr. Ralph Schickel and sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition. Added to the lineup this year is a lunchtime game show in the style of “The Price is Right,” hosted by Phil Francis, chairman of PetSmart, and John Francis, vice president of MWI Veterinary Supply. This informal event heightened students’ understanding of common inventory cost—the lack of which is a traditional complaint of established veterinarians who hire new graduates.

In the past year, the VBMA has earned many awards and distinctions. It was selected as “Chapter of the Year” by the National VBMA, recruited more students to register on the national website than any other chapter, received the award for “Best Business Club” by the Student American Veterinary Medicine Association, and had two club officers selected for leadership positions on the 2010 National VBMA board.

Dr. Meghan Staller, V’06, one of the founding members of the VBMA explains, “Ultimately the VBMA teaches veterinary students that anything is possible. We do not have to limit ourselves to the way things have been done in the past. With the brilliant, passionate, altruistic members of our community, veterinarians are keenly positioned to pioneer novel business models to overcome the current shortcomings of healthcare delivery to animals. They can, and hopefully will, define new standards of efficient, compassionate and personalized care to which human medicine can aspire.”
Since 1884 when the School of Veterinary Medicine was established by the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Medicine, we have firmly believed in the concept of “One Medicine”—that human medicine and veterinary medicine are inextricably linked. As we celebrate our 125th anniversary we can look back and see clearly the tremendous contributions our faculty, staff and alumni have made in bettering the health of animals. Along the way, we have also consistently pursued the One Medicine concept so that what we learn about animal health helps us understand human disease.

**MAN’S BEST FRIEND**

One area where veterinary medicine is significantly effecting change is promoting the study of spontaneously occurring diseases in large animals to further the understanding of disease models. Primates, cattle, horses, cats and dogs have all contributed to our knowledge of health, yet for a very long time, mice were king. Although mouse models have many benefits, including low cost and short time to maturity, they also have significant limitations such as their clinical similarities both genetically and physically to humans making translational and pre-clinical studies less than ideal.

Research focusing on canine models of disease, in particular, is gaining momentum and for very good reasons. Studying pure breed dogs, due to the very nature of selective breeding and closed gene pools, presents extraordinary opportunity to identify potential links to genetics. Nearly half of genetic diseases reported in dogs occur predominantly, or exclusively, in one or a few breeds. Access to pedigrees simplifies following disease from one generation to the next.

Dogs have more naturally occurring inherited diseases than any other species except man. Nearly half of these diseases are common to humans. The top 10 diseases of greatest concern to dogs include cancer, epilepsy, autoimmune diseases, heart disease and diseases causing cataracts. Between humans and dogs, naturally occurring diseases tend to be similar biologically and histologically in their clinical course. Since humans and their dogs share a
common environment there is tremendous opportunity to explore significant relevance among environmental factors.

Many researchers believe cancer is the area of health where dogs may have greatest impact in accelerating our understanding and advancing therapeutics. Cancer is the most frequent canine disease, and cancer is the largest killer of dogs over age two. Since humans and dogs share similar bone cancers, skin cancers and lymphomas, comparative research between humans and canines holds tremendous potential for furthering our understanding of cancer-related disease, both in humans and in animals.

Certain breeds of dog are known to develop certain types of cancer. Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), for example, is common in the Greyhound and the Rottweiler. It is also the sixth most common cancer seen in children.

Our canine friends can teach us much about the natural progression of tumors. Research suggests that in the mechanism of tumor development there are more similarities between humans and dogs than between humans and any other model organism.

Clinical intervention can be easily studied over a condensed period of time due to the shorter life span of dogs. Survival rates for dogs suffering from cancer are detailed over a period of one year as opposed to five in human oncology. Clinical trials looking at disease progression tend to achieve fairly rapid results.

Due to similarities in the physiology of canines and humans, dogs metabolize and respond to drugs in ways very similar to humans. When diseases occur, dogs provide invaluable information to us as we move from the laboratory to veterinary and human clinics.

FROM THE BENCH TO THE BEDSIDE

Translational medicine refers to taking discoveries made in basic science research labs and using them to very quickly develop therapies useful for treating patients—whether they are humans or animals. The goal of translational medicine is to accelerate the application of basic discoveries to clinical practice, including diagnosis and treatment of human and veterinary patients. But it is not as easy as one might think.

It is estimated that 80 percent of novel cancer drugs are never used because they fail during clinical trials. Failure is costly and time consuming. It is no wonder clinical trials testing new treatments and therapies are expanding and moving into the veterinary clinic as awareness of the potential of studies involving canine models continues to rise. Veterinary medicine and our canine friends are being acknowledged for the tremendous potential that comparative medical models have in understanding disease and efficiently and more quickly bringing new treatments to your veterinary clinic as well as your doctor’s office.

Penn, in both its schools of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, has made significant advances in bringing together basic science researchers and clinicians. Those who treat patients on a regular basis and those who focus primarily on laboratory research have operated for years within very different cultures. However, the determination to harness the potential of translational medicine has lead to new collaboration, innovation and commitment to advancing practical clinical solutions, developing better products and improving care. One Medicine—for humans and animals—may have seemed far-fetched just a short time ago, but thanks to our animal friends, particularly our canine friends, not for much longer.
We’re all tied up in this together. That’s the message Dr. James Serpell wants us to understand. Dr. Serpell is the Marie A. Moore Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare and director of Penn Vet’s Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society. Dr. Serpell’s research was one of the earliest to describe the beneficial effects of pet ownership on human health.

Clearly, the recession and global economic crisis has affected the lives of animals. From urban pugs to rural cattle, the economy is changing how, where and if animals live. When you think of the economy and animals, the first story that comes to mind is animals abandoned during the current recession. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that animal abandonment is up over 58 percent in the United Kingdom since 2008. In the United States, stories abound about animals left at shelters or tied to signposts as people have lost their homes to foreclosure. “The biggest influx of animals into shelters correlates directly with the areas hardest hit by the financial downturn. Where people lose their homes, pets do, too,” reports Dr. Serpell.

For many animals a lost home means they are given to or find their way to an animal shelter. Dr. Michael Moyer, Rosenthal Director of Penn Vet’s Shelter Animal Medicine Program, notes that both animals and animal shelters are struggling. He communicates regularly with his
colleagues at shelters and in shelter medicine programs at other veterinary schools. “Shelters are busier and under greater pressures in a down economy. It isn’t a good situation for animals or those who care for them,” says Dr. Moyer.

Not all animals are fortunate enough to land in a shelter, and many of those that do are not adopted. Animals that are abandoned on the streets face serious health threats such as starvation, dehydration, exhaustion, fear and accidents. An animal may die from the stress of abandonment alone.

But even animals not abandoned are facing potential health risks because of the economy. According to recent statistics from the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues and a study by Brakke Consulting, a Texas-based animal health care management firm, small animal practice veterinarians reported a decrease in client visits in fall 2008 and reduced or flat transactions. These veterinarians also noted that more pet owners were choosing less-expensive treatments and either refusing or postponing non-essential services and diagnostic tests.

While business has been growing for Charles Arensberg, V’03—whose practice, Equine Veterinary Care, located at the Fair Hill Training Center in Elkton, MD, refers regularly to Penn’s George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals in Kennett Square—there have been some changes. “I have seen some clients choose to forgo pre-purchase exams for middle or lower level horses,” reported Dr. Arensberg.

For the owner of Philadelphia’s Cat Doctor, Diane Eigner, V’80, a top referring vet to Penn’s Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, while overall business is also growing, in elective areas, such as dentistry, people are delaying or declining some healthcare procedures. Payment has also changed. “We’ve seen a 100 percent increase in clients using CareCredit (a GE Money Company personal line of credit for healthcare treatments and procedures accepted by many veterinarians including Penn Vet). We’ve become more creative in finding ways to support and work with clients who are facing financial challenges,” reported Dr. Eigner.

There is, however, a story beyond the difficult choices owners are making about keeping and caring for their animals. Evidence suggests that owning dogs and cats makes great sense when it comes to human health—actually, big dollars and cents.

“As a society, we consistently underestimate the importance of our relationships with animals,” says Dr. Serpell. “It’s not just how much animals matter to us emotionally. They keep us healthier.”

Dr. Serpell’s findings have been echoed in other research throughout the world. A major study in Australia calculated the number of doctor visits for pet owners versus non owners. Bruce Headey and colleagues at the University of Melbourne led the Australian National People and Pets Survey 1994 which documented how dog and cat owners made fewer doctor visits and appeared to have better health than non owners. The calculations indicated that the presence of pets saved the Australian government between $790 million and $1.5 billion. Benefits of owning pets and animals in general relate to both physical and mental health: getting more exercise, having companionship, being active caring for another being.

Using the Australian formula to calculate the potential benefits and applying it to the US population, we could be saving billions of dollars in annual healthcare expenditures. If animals do play a concrete role in keeping humans healthy, why don’t we focus on the economic benefits of animals? Dr. Serpell attributes this, in part, to the difficulty in calculating the benefits of pets in hard numbers. “It’s easy to quantify the costs and benefits of livestock. You can add it up. But assessing the value of companionship is really tough. Owning pets saves us vast amounts of money but it’s money that we don’t see directly. Since it’s never used, its absence is never noticed,” Dr. Serpell says.

This positive benefit of pet ownership to owners’ health has been documented in China as well, according to a study published in Social Indicators Research in 2008. In China, pets were banned in urban areas until the early 1990s. This absence and resurgence provided a unique opportunity to evaluate pets’ impact on human health. The study focused on whether owning a dog translated into better health. Results came from a survey given to more than 3000 women aged 25–40 in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Half the respondents owned dogs and half did not. As with the Australian study, pet owners experienced better health. Pet owners reported more frequent exercise, sleeping better, greater fitness and health, fewer days taken off from work due to illness and fewer visits to the doctor.

In an economic downturn, when people are giving up their pets, will there be a correlating cost to human as well as animal health? “We need to study the long term impact of animals on human health—beyond the existing studies,” says Dr. Serpell. We won’t know the true costs of the recession on humans or animals until we have a better understanding of their relationship to one another,” he says.

For more information about the work of Dr. Serpell and the Center for the Study of the Interaction of Animals and Society visit www.vet.upenn.edu/animalsandsociety.
It’s not a pleasant thought. According to Michael Blacksburg, an estate planning attorney, each year 500,000 pets are euthanized when their owner(s) predecease them.

If you’re worried about what might happen to your much-loved pet after your death, it’s possible to create a pet trust to provide for the continuing care of your animal(s). You don’t have to have assets on par with the late Leona Helmsley to provide for your pets. When she died in 2007, Leona Helmsley left $12 million to her dog and directed through her will that much of her multi-billion dollar trust be focused on the welfare of dogs. The media attention to the Helmsley estate has prompted many pet owners to ask themselves, “What will happen to my pet if something should happen to me?”

It is estimated that between 20 to 25 percent of US pet owners have established pet trusts. According to the AVMA Web site, pet trusts are recognized in every state except Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma and West Virginia. Cost for a pet trust can range from $500 to $3,000, depending on its size and complexity. Adding a pet trust to a basic estate planning package at the same time a will is drawn up may keep it more affordable for pet owners.

A professional estate planner can help you develop a plan to assure your pets have continuous care for that day when you don’t return home. Unlike a will, a trust can provide for your pet immediately and can apply not only if you die, but also if you become ill or incapacitated. It’s important to be as specific as possible in drafting a trust for your pet. Essential elements of a pet trust include accurate contact information of a trustee, alternate trustee, care-giver and alternate caregiver; proper identification of your pet (microchip, DNA information, recent photograph of your pet’s distinguishing features); a detailed outline of the standard of living you wish your pet to receive, and instructions for the disposition of your pet’s body when it dies.

Financially, you will want to be sure the trust is funded with sufficient resources to adequately cover the costs of your pet’s care plus costs associated with administering the trust. Legislation for pet trusts has focused on allowing pet owners to set aside funds necessary to provide their pets with reasonable care, including food, shelter and veterinary care, but not for lives of extravagance. When determining the funding level of a pet trust, consider your pet’s life expectancy, current and future medical costs, trustee fees, whether or not to compensate the care-giver and cost of basic care.

A pet trust may also fit nicely with your philanthropic plans. When the trust terminates upon the death of your pet, you can predetermine where to direct the assets of the trust. Currently at Penn Vet, trusts and estates are providing needed funding for scholarships for veterinary students, support of distinguished faculty and staff, and clinical research at both Ryan Veterinary Hospital and New Bolton Center that will change the face of veterinary and human medicine.

An example of this is the choice made by the late Mrs. Isabel Robson. Isabel Robson was a great friend to animals. During her lifetime she was named Horsewoman of the Year in 1979 and won Best in Show in 1986 at Westminster with her Pointer. In her will, Mrs. Robson strategically provided for the care of her beloved horses and dogs, entrusting friends and associates with their care and specific instructions on how she wished them to live out their lives. She then bequeathed a significant portion of her estate to establish endowed funds dedicated to the research of the diseases of horses and dogs. Today her gift is supporting multiple innovative research projects, including investigating equine orthopedics and canine cancer.

If you have considered a charitable gift to Penn Vet, a pet trust may provide the answer to both caring for your pets should you no longer be able and providing for the future of veterinary medicine through a charitable gift to the School. Lynn Ierardi, JD, director of Gift Planning, works with the School of Veterinary Medicine helping donors explore possibilities of estate gifts and gifts using assets other than cash. For more information you can contact Lynn Ierardi at 215-898-6171 or lierardi@dev.upenn.edu.
Established in 1982, Penn Vet’s Memorial Program consists of a large group of practitioners making thoughtful contributions to the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Pennsylvania’s only small animal teaching veterinary hospital, in memory of their clients’ pets. The program provides much needed financial support to help fund the treatment and care of Penn Vet’s animal patients.

Cost: $150 for a pack of 12 cards | 10% discount on your order of 3 packs or more | $15.00 per card if we mail the cards for you

For more information and an order form, go to www.vet.upenn.edu/Giving/Pet_Memorial_Program or call 215 746 7460.

As a participating practice, you will receive a live link from the Penn Vet Pet Memorial page to your Web site!
Over the last year, more than 1,150 donors have made gifts to support student scholarships and fellowships at Penn Vet. Alumni, corporations, foundations, hospital clients, and friends have endorsed the importance of world-class veterinary education through their contributions.

Penn’s 494 veterinary students, including those participating in the unique VMD/PhD Program, rely on scholarships to help fund their educations. Today, a Penn veterinary student graduates with an average debt of $160,000 which most often is in addition to their indebtedness for their undergraduate and other graduate education. The burden of this debt dramatically limits graduating veterinarians from pursuing public health roles such as shelter medicine or service to the agricultural community.

Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet includes a goal of $12 million dollars for student financial aid. Recent gifts to support student aid have included:

> A gift of $108,000 from the Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation to support 50 percent of a student’s tuition for four years and provide living expenses and monies for books. This scholarship, the third from the Foundation, is in memory of the late Kathy and Jerry Wood, leaders in the Annapolis, Maryland community who loved animals.

> Gifts to the Alumni Scholarship Fund totaling $170,000, and gifts to the Opportunity Scholarship Program of more than $174,000 in fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).

> A gift of $106,000 from the Armour-Lewis Foundation to support VMD/PhD students. The Foundation has helped educate the brightest veterinarian researchers for more than nine years.

> A gift of more than $100,000 from Mrs. Betty Chuska for a new endowed scholarship. In addition, Mrs. Chuska has chosen to make a bequest in her estate to add to this scholarship and support the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital.

> Over $53,000 in contributions from Penn Vet alumni towards their class endowed scholarships.

“"The education of veterinarians in the 21st century is a public health issue and a national imperative.”
— Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine


> A gift of $35,000 from The New York Farmers Fund to support veterinary education. They have provided scholarship support for over 30 years.

> Gifts in memory of beloved members of the extended Penn Vet community for the purpose of aiding students. These community members included Drs. Charlie Reid, Josephine Deubler, V’38, GR’44; St. George Hunt, V’86; Robert Kenney; and Robert Fairchild, C’64, and a member of the School’s Board of Overseers.

We hope that those who depend on the skill and commitment of veterinarians for the care of their animals will choose to invest in the education of these dedicated students who will become the next generation of practitioners. For more information about supporting financial aid, contact Kate Judge at 215-898-1482 or judge@vet.upenn.edu.

26 BELLWETHER FALL 2009
For decades, Penn Vet’s class reunion giving tradition has provided financial support to the School for scholarships, programs and capital projects. Seventeen class reunion funds now exist; the most recent is the gift of the Classes of 1958, 1959 and 1960. In celebration of their combined 50th reunions, members of these three classes have provided the funding for the start of the “Greening of the Courtyard” project which began in early August, 2009. The transformation of the space from a parking lot to a park-like setting returns it to an earlier incarnation.

When the Old Vet Quadrangle was completed in 1913, the building surrounded a central grass courtyard which was a focal point for education and treatment. It was the place where sick animals were transported by way of the horse-drawn animal ambulance and where lame horses and sick cows were brought for medical assistance. Dr. Sheldon Farber, V’44, remembers when a famous patient, Borden’s Elsie the Cow, was brought to the Courtyard for examination. Everyone was sworn to secrecy because the company didn’t want anyone to know that Elsie was ill.

According to Dr. Farber, “There were two purposes for the grass oval in the courtyard. First, it was a place for animals to relieve themselves, hence the nickname ‘Fecal Field.’ Second, it was used for the examination of lame horses. The vet student would run the horse around the oval so that the veterinarian could determine the cause of the lameness.” By the time Dr. Farber was a student at Penn Vet, the local SPCA had a motorized ambulance that brought large animals to the Vet Hospital and the School’s horse-drawn ambulance was a thing of the past.

As the School grew into the two-campus facility that exists today, its space needs changed. Parking was at a premium and to preserve space for client parking, the courtyard grass was replaced by asphalt and tire-stops to accommodate faculty and staff parking. The only notable grass on campus was a small area behind the Ryan Veterinary Hospital on Pine Street. With green space on the Vet school’s campus limited the ‘greening of the courtyard’ restored the grassy area in the Courtyard to provide more outdoor community space.

The project is expected to be completed by Alumni Weekend, May 14–17, 2010, when the official dedication will take place with alumni class donors. The project includes the following renovations:

- A sod patch of 40 x 70 feet planted in the center of the Courtyard.
- Card-access at the wrought-iron gate, replacing the key/lock system, to ensure safety for students and staff entering the Old Vet Courtyard through the gated entrance. Alumni will continue to have access to all of the School buildings via the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Hill Pavilion and Rosenthal Building entrances.
- Picnic tables, benches, game equipment and trash receptacles, supported in large part, by students.
- Repaving of the former parking lot.

**Tom Bowman, DVM, VFL’71**

**BY COREEN HAGGERTY**

Dr. Tom Bowman, VFL’71, applied for a post-doctoral fellowship/internship in clinical reproduction at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center campus in the spring of 1969. Until then he had planned on a career in small animal surgery. “Two things prompted me to send in my application. First, I realized I was happy being outdoors with large animals. Second, was the possibility of continuing my education at Penn’s New Bolton Center,” notes Dr. Bowman. To his surprise, Richard A. McFeely, V’61, then chief of the Section of Clinical Reproduction, soon called to confirm his acceptance. “Without a doubt,” says Dr. Bowman, “this was the defining moment of my entire 40-year career in veterinary medicine.”

**From Soccer to Surgery**

Dr. Bowman attributes his love of animals to his father, Roland, who was a full-time mailman and part-time farmer. The small Bowman farm housed numerous barnyard animals. “The one animal that we never had, and one that I always wanted, was a horse,” says Dr. Bowman, “an influence I still feel today.”

Young Tom Bowman had two primary interests—sports and animals. Dr. Bowman recalls, “Somehow my dad, who never attended college himself, convinced the soccer coach at the University of Maryland that I was worthy of a scholarship.” Dr. Bowman became the captain of Maryland’s freshman team, playing in three NCAA national tournaments, but he attributes his path to veterinary medicine to his freshman coach, Ian Forest, a goalkeeper from Scotland, agricultural major and former pre-vet student. “If it weren’t for him, I probably would never have gone to veterinary school. He steered me toward the College of Agriculture and also taught me to become a good goalkeeper,” remarked Dr. Bowman.

As a sophomore in college, Tom volunteered with small animal practitioner and former Johns Hopkins athlete, Dr. Peter Hine, who had recently broken his hand. “We hit it off from the beginning. I did far more on the surgical front than expected and I was sure I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He was intensely loyal to the Penn Veterinary program and convinced me it was the Harvard or the Hopkins of the veterinary world. He was the first person I called when I got the internship at New Bolton.”

**The Years at New Bolton Center**

Dr. Bowman’s initial one-year internship at New Bolton Center evolved into two-and-a-half years after becoming the first resident in the Section of Clinical Reproduction who simultaneously completed a master’s degree in reproductive physiology in cooperation with the University of Maryland. “Those were the happiest and most productive years of my veterinary education,” says Dr. Bowman. “I was in the midst of true pioneers in large animal veterinary medicine—Bill Boucher, V’40, Bill Donawick, HOM’72, Loren Evans, Bob Kenney, Charlie Raker, C41, V’42, and Jim Rooney. My colleagues included Simon Kenyon, GR’76, Bob Lee, Frank Lockner, Bill Moyer, Fred Peterson, V’68 and Jim Stewart, V’68. I made lifelong friendships—it was a real family atmosphere.” Dr. Bowman also recounts, “When Dean Bob Marshak heard that my wife was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, he immediately scheduled an appointment for her at Penn’s human hospital. This is just an example of how wonderfully we were treated during our stay at Penn.”

**Most Meaningful Accomplishment**

Dr. Bowman notes he has accomplished all of his goals since leaving Penn, which includes a successful and gratifying career as a broodmare veterinarian and raising, selling and racing numerous champion thoroughbred race horses, including two-time Eclipse award winning Good Night Shirt. He is presently co-owner of Northview Stallion Station which stands 12 stallions and has divisions in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He was co-owner and editor of Modern Horse Breeding magazine which has evolved into the monthly magazine, The Horse. He was a college soccer...
coach for 20 years, and is presently in his second term as president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

However, Dr. Bowman cites his family life as his most meaningful accomplishment. He married his high school sweetheart, Chris, and they have five children and eight grandchildren (soon to be nine). “Chris is definitely the strength of our family,” he says. “In addition to being a busy mother and now grandmother, she continues to be our farm business manager, practice manager, and was until recently, our night watchman during foaling season—all of this despite enduring multiple surgeries for joint replacements related to rheumatoid arthritis. She is an inspiration to all who know her.”

Sons Tom and Brooke, and daughters Becky, Margaret and Quin grew up working on the home farm in Chestertown, Maryland. Becky manages the family farms and is a successful equine sales agent. Margaret is a food safety veterinarian in Omaha, Nebraska. Brooke is entering his fourth year of veterinary school at Purdue University and Quin has recently decided to return to school – perhaps veterinary medicine.

The Fork in the Road... Take it!

Dr. Bowman prefers to focus on the reasons for his accomplishments. “We all have experiences early in our education that shape our life story. Being a product of New Bolton Center gave me the education, confidence and credibility to pursue my career of working with broodmares.” Dr. Bowman reflects, “I recently was invited to speak to the students at Ross University Veterinary School about career choices and practice ownership. I felt compelled to repeat Yogi Berra’s wonderful advice… ‘when you come to a fork in the road, take it!’ In my case, I took the right fork and ended up in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.”

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As I approach my six-month anniversary as President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Board, I call on fellow alumni to join me in helping our Alma Mater. Even in the most difficult times, alumni can and do continue to give generously and respond quickly.

We can support the School. By writing dozens of letters this summer, our collective voice was heard by Pennsylvania legislators and the Governor regarding the School’s appropriations. We increased alumni annual giving 5% this year from last, growing the Pet Memorial Program and infusing the School with much needed unrestricted funding. We can serve as ambassadors to rotary and community groups, place Penn Vet’s Web link on our practice Web sites, and encourage clients to also support the School.

We can support students. Through VMAS, we support New Student Orientation; host families of first year students at Parents and Partners Day; fund the first “Welcome to Campus Happy-Hour” of the school year; pin third-year students at the White Coat Ceremony; host the young alumni luncheon at the Penn Annual Conference; and provide graduating students with information and resources at Commencement. In addition, we can employ and mentor current students in our own businesses and practices, and hire students after graduation. Time spent now with current students offers us a way to learn the needs and skills of our newest alumni, while supporting our legacy.

We can support each other. Join us at Penn Vet’s alumni receptions at national veterinary conferences, to share your ideas and network. Stay connected with classmates through our VMAS class listservs of vmclassofXXXX@lists.upenn.edu (replace the “xxxx’s” with your class year, ie. 2006). Visit vet.upenn.edu/alumni for current information and resources. Follow us on Facebook (Penn Vet School) and tweet us on Twitter (pennvet).

Learn, share, network and reunite with us at Penn Annual Conference March 3 – 5, 2010. Return to campus Alumni Weekend on May 14-17, 2009 for reunion activities at New Bolton Center and in the new green courtyard in Philadelphia. Call on your classmates and invite them to reunite and re-visit campus.

All of us in the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society, which includes you, have the opportunity to be proud of, engaged with, and supportive of Penn Vet. We have a real opportunity to make an impact on our School – please join in the effort.

—CARLA CHIEFFO, V’86 GR’98
1950s

1958 – Under the direction of president Max Herman, V’58, the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine held its first Veterinary Career and Family Fun Day on May 30, 2009. Aspiring veterinarians viewed an ultrasound performed on a dog, listened to a dog’s heartbeat, drew blood from the neck of a rubberized dog, viewed animal dental models, and gave simulated intravenous and intramuscular injections, as well as participated in Penn Vet’s MASH TENT.

1970s

1978 – Nancy M. Bromberg, V’78, MS, DACVO, participated in the second annual ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Exam week in May, 2009, examining more than 40 service and therapy dogs. Her participation was highlighted in the Washington Post and Baltimore Sun newspapers.

1980s

1980 – Steven W. Atwood, V’80, MRCVS, MD, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Falmouth Academy, an academically rigorous, coed, college-preparatory day school for grades 7-12. He has also been re-appointed to the Board of Overseers of the School of Veterinary Medicine by the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees and continues to serve as a member of the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1980 – Caroline Hughes, V’80, is serving as Acting State Veterinarian of Delaware, a position housed in the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hughes also received the 2007 H. Wesley Towers Veterinarian of the Year Award from the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association for her work in revising the state’s veterinary practice act and with other legislative efforts.

1981 – Michelle Gerhard Jasny, V’81, writes a regular column called the “Visiting Veterinarian” in The Martha’s Vineyard Times. Written through the eyes of a small animal clinician, topics and stories range from ringworm to cancer and from swallowed pennies to bloat.

1985 – Mark Cofone, V’85, DACVS, co-owner of the Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware, a small animal emergency and specialty hospital, moved the practice from Newport, DE to a new state of the art facility in New Castle, DE in August, 2009. The practice offers dermatology, surgery, ophthalmology, internal medicine, cardiology, dentistry, radiology and 24-hour emergency services. New services include CT scanning, and an oncology service set to open in December, 2009. Other alumni partners include Art Jankowski, V’94, DACVS and Michael Miller, V’79, DABVP. Alumni clinicians in the practice include Michael Cohen, V’02, Van William Knox, V’94, DACVR, Kelly Krell, V’04, Robin Pullen, V’92, DACVIM-IM, Carrie Tupper Hume, V’03, and Erin Vicari, V’97, and former Penn Vet residents and interns Drs. Jeremy Diroff, Alexandra Frank and Brian Palmeiro.

1990s

1989 – Philippe Coudrai, V’89, and his wife, Lee, owners of Winslow Animal Hospital in Sicklerville, NJ, for the past 10 years, wish to announce the grand opening of their new facility September, 2009. At 10,500 square feet, it is the largest small animal general practice solely dedicated to medicine and surgery (no boarding or grooming) in South Jersey. This state of the art hospital features 10 exam rooms, two operating rooms, digital radiography, a dental suite, a special procedures room, as well as more than 500 square feet for rehabilitation, including a Ferno underwater treadmill. Rehabilitation, as well as puppy training classes will be some of the new services offered in this $3 million facility. www.winslowanimalhospital.com

1992 – Jennifer Baez, V’92, Veterinary Oncologist with the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services in Langhorne, PA, commented to WSOTC.com about a canine melanoma vaccine study. She noted that “ideally, the non-canine version will train the dog’s immune system to recognize tyrosinase on melanoma cells as different from the protein on normal cells. If that happens, the dog’s immune system may mount an attack against the cancer.” WSOTC.com is based in South Carolina.

1992 – Bradford Bentz, V’92, spoke at the Brumfield Hay and Grain Co. conference on September 5, 2009, a live natural horsemanship demonstration, on the pre-purchase exam for the competitive horse. Dr. Bentz is board certified in Large Animal Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and Equine Practice (ABVP) and has worked for the U.S. Equestrian Team. He has served as an endurance veterinarian, has worked extensively with show jumpers, hunters, dressage horses and eventers, and was a professor of equine internal medicine at Oklahoma State University where he was the team veterinarian for the Oklahoma State University’s Equestrian Team.

1995 – Kimberley (Breslee) Knipe, V’95, has opened her own mobile veterinary hospital called “Dr. Knipe’s Veterinary Service” in Chester County, Pennsylvania.
Dr. Knipe brings pet care to the home of clients to prevent stress to the animal and owner, remove the risk of unruly pets in the waiting room, and contain infectious disease. The service provides well and sick visits, domestic health certificates, blood-work and monitoring of chronic diseases.

1997 – The University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine announced that its section of Fish Health Services is now available for ornamental and commercially-raised fish. Scott Weber, MSC, V’97, will continue to provide aquatic animal health consultations at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. His expertise includes freshwater, brackish and marine fish, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

1998 – Anson J. Tsugawa, V’98, DAVDC recently opened a new specialty clinic dedicated to veterinary dentistry and oral surgery, Dog and Cat Dentist, Inc., at the City of Angels Veterinary Specialty Center in Culver City, CA. In addition, the Tsugawa family welcomed a new baby girl in December, 2008, Jamey Antoinette.

1999 – Patrick Mahaney, V’99, President of the California Pet Acupuncture and Wellness Hospital, provides conventional and complementary veterinary medical care in veterinary hospitals and clients’ homes. Patrick enjoys the opportunity to utilize internet, print, radio, and television outlets to educate clients on how they can achieve the best quality of life for their pets, specifically through his regular e-mail stories and tip alerts, “The Pet Care Examiner,” to clients and friends of animals.

2002 – Christine (Bohn) Kirnos, V’02, and husband Paul proudly welcomed a baby boy, Julian, on April 25, 2009.

2004 – Laura Javicsas, V’04, DACVIM has accepted a position as the internal medicine specialist at Upstate Equine Medical Center, outside of Saratoga Springs, NY. After four years at the University of Florida, she is looking forward to being closer to family and friends in the Northeast.

2006 – Christin Veeder, V’06, returned to Penn after completing her residency training in laboratory animal medicine at Emory University and joined ULAR as a clinical staff veterinarian in December, 2008.

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**Residents**

**Dr. Steeve Giguère**, former New Bolton Center resident in Large Animal Internal Medicine, has been named the Marguerite Thomas Hodgson Chair of Equine Studies in the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. The Hodgson Chair is funded by a $1 million endowment established by a donation to the department of large animal medicine from Marguerite Thomas Hodgson, and is designed to support a faculty member who will conduct research to improve equine health and teach students state-of-the-art techniques in equine medicine.

**Deaths**

1979 – Patricia Whittaker (Briggs) on July 26, 2009.

*Editor’s Note:
Sadly, Dr. Anna Worth passed away during the production of Bellwether Number 70, Spring 2009, which highlighted the story of her career and life in the article “Champion of Animal Welfare.” We hope the words written of Anna’s contributions to veterinary medicine provided comfort to her family and friends and appropriately reflected the passion and innovation of her life’s work.

Have you received a promotion, gotten married, had a baby or received an award? Have you volunteered somewhere special, moved into a new building, ventured into a new business, or discovered the cure for avian flu? Please share with us all of your good news to include in the CLASS NOTES section of the Bellwether and the vet.upenn.edu Web site. All residents, interns and fellows are also invited to share!

Forward all alumni news to Coreen Haggerty, Director of Alumni Relations at haggertc@vet.upenn.edu, fax at 215-573-3544, or write Office of Alumni Relations, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172 E, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
Penn Vet is proud to print Bellwether magazine on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified paper, which supports the growth of responsible forest management worldwide through its international standards.

**November 2009**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009**
Metropolitan Dog Club Lunch and Lecture  
*National Arts Club, New York City*

Dr. Dottie Brown discusses clinical trials at Penn Vet  
For more information: [www.metropolitandogclub.com/events.html](http://www.metropolitandogclub.com/events.html)

**Friday, November 13, 2009**
Rush Shippen Huidekoper Society Dinner  
*University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Campus*

This is an opportunity to recognize Penn Vet’s most generous donors who contributed $2,500 or more in FY’09.

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
Friends of New Bolton Center Lecture  
*New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA*

For more information please call Pat Hall at 610-925-6500.

**December 2009**

**Monday, December 7, 2009**
American Association of Equine Practitioners Annual Convention  
*Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino – Las Vegas, NV*

Penn Vet Alumni Reception

**January 2010**

**Sunday, January 17, 2010**
North American Veterinary Annual Conference  
*Orlando, FL*

Penn Vet Alumni Reception

**February 2010**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**
Animal Lovers Lecture Series: Emergency Services and First Aid for Your Pet  
*University of Pennsylvania, Veronica & Shalley Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA*

Presenter: Dr. Erica Reineke, Assistant Professor in Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, Penn Vet

**Monday, February 15 and Tuesday, February 16, 2010**
Westminster Kennel Club 134th Annual Dog Show  
*Mathison Square Garden (Pennsylvania Plaza) – New York, NY*

**March 2010**

**Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4, 2010**
110th Penn Annual Conference (Lectures)  
*“Internal Medicine – Piecing Together the Big Picture”*  
*Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel – Philadelphia, PA*

Join fellow alumni and colleagues at the single largest annual gathering of Penn Veterinary Medicine Alumni. This year’s special keynote lecture will be presented by Penn Vet alumni Robert J. Washabau, V’82, GR’91 and Scott A. Brown, V’82.

**Friday, March 5, 2010**
110th Penn Annual Conference (Wet Labs)  
*University of Pennsylvania, Ryan Veterinary Hospital – Philadelphia, PA*

**April 2010**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010**
Friends of New Bolton Center Donor Recognition Dinner and Lecture  
*New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA*

Please contact Pat Hall at 610-925-6500 for details.

**Thursday, April 22, 2010**
Animal Lovers Lecture Series: Vaccine Protocols  
*New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA*

Presenter: Dr. Meryl Littman, Associate Professor of Medicine, Penn Vet

**May 2010**

**Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15, 2010**
Alumni Weekend 2010: Save the Date!  
*University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Campus and New Bolton Center*

We remember all Penn Vet alumni with special celebrations for all Penn Vet classes ending in ‘5’ and ‘0’ including the 25th reunion of the Class of 1985 and the 50th reunion of the Class of 1960. CONTACT: Coreen Haggerty @ haggertc@vet.upenn.edu or 215.898.1481

For information on any of these events, contact Darleen Coles, Special Events Coordinator, at coles@vet.upenn.edu or 215-746-2421.