A New Technique to Diagnose Hip Dysplasia

Hip dysplasia in dogs was first described in 1935 by Dr. G. B. Schenelle of the Angell Memorial Hospital. Since then, much research has been done to determine the causes of the disease and to develop diagnostic techniques. It has been shown that hip dysplasia is a polygenic trait. About 30 percent of the dogs that develop hip dysplasia have a genetic predisposition, and the remaining 70 percent may develop the disease because of environmental factors.

Refurbishing of the Isolation Barn

New Bolton Center's six-stall isolation barn is being refurbished through the generosity of the Cheever Foundation. The garage door to the walkway between the barns is gone. In its stead is a regular door. The floor is resurfaced, and new drains and waterlines have been installed. Each stall is equipped with a faucet, making in-stall hydrotherapy possible, and more stainless steel sinks in each of the stall anteooms. Sliding windows at each feeding area were installed to permit adding feed without entering the stall. This new feature also allows clinicians and nurses to better observe each patient. A pulley system for handling the 20 liter 1V fluid bottles was added, enabling one person to handle the heavy jugs. The common work area was improved. Now there is a counter with laboratory equipment for simple tests, a centrifuge, and a total solids meter. Also purchased and installed were a small refrigerator and a microwave oven.

New Bolton Center's isolation barn is much in use. "It has made it easier for the horses," said Dr. Jonathan Palmer. "As salmonella is a common diagnosis for horses with diarrhea, we must make sure that a patient does not have it before being moved to a common barn. Cultures taken from joint fluid are now sent to the laboratory instead of being cultured on the stall.

Scholarship Funds

The School has received $50,000 from the Salisbury Foundation for the student scholarship fund. Contributions to this fund were also made by Dr. Carol A. Dolinsky, a client of VHUP.