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usually a dog or a cat. For many in our society, especially the lonely, the growing population of lonely senior citizens, and for the physically infirmed, pets play an immensely important role in terms of mental and emotional health. Beyond this, companion animals help millions of people cope with the everyday stresses of modern living. What happens when these animals become sick? Do we as a society feel an obligation to ensure that they are appropriately cared for? I believe that the overwhelming sentiment among Pennsylvanians is that animal ownership and proper care go hand in hand. Penn's Veterinary School meets this need by educating more than 70% of the veterinarians practicing in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania veterinarians refer difficult cases to our small animal hospital, including dogs in the canine corps of police departments, guide dogs for the blind, and valuable zoo animal collections. The School provides round-the-clock emergency care for injured and

acutely sick animals. In 1995 more than 9,000 animals were treated in our emergency rooms.

The School has the largest basic science enterprise of any veterinary school in the U.S., and has made profound contributions to advancing human health. There are many examples, but one of the most significant is the work of Dr. Ralph Brinster who pioneered the development of transgenic animals, animals that have had foreign genes permanently inserted into their DNA in such a way that the genes are expressed in and alter the characteristics of specific tissues producing traits that are transmitted from generation to generation. It is widely recognized that this work represents one of the most significant advances in biological sciences of the 20th century. Dr. Brinster's work has profoundly advanced understanding of gene control in both the animal and plant kingdom, it is the foundation for current work on genetic engineering of crops and for cutting edge medical research on gene therapy. Because this technology has great potential for

advancing the animal industry we have secured private funding to create the Laboratory of Animal Genetics and Germ Cell Biology at New Bolton Center with Dr. Brinster as the senior scientist. With this unique initiative we hope to continue advancing the economy of Pennsylvania's animal industry but we will have great difficulty continuing to raise funds from the private sector and recruiting outstanding faculty if the scientific excellence of the School is threatened through lack of State support. Since the turn of the century, the General Assembly has played a fundamental role in nurturing this highly successful industrial/educational/research partnership. We recognize that we are in a period of austere budgets, but investment in the School of Veterinary Medicine is an investment in the future of animal agriculture — in productivity, efficiency and ability to compete in the world market. It is an investment in the economy of Pennsylvania that has and will continue to pay rich dividends. ■

## 1995 Saratoga Benefit Raised \$115,000

The August 1995 benefit "An Evening in Old Saratoga", raised \$115,000 for New Bolton Center, the large animal facility of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. The funds will be combined with the Lawrence E. Ensor, Jr. Memorial Fund to purchase a diagnostic medical ultrasound machine with color flow Doppler images. Presenting the check to Dr. Virginia Reef, associate professor of medicine and chief of sports medicine and imaging and Dean Alan Kelly at NBC was Mrs. Robert R. Landan, Jr., of Chester Springs, PA, who chaired the Gala Committee of "An Evening in Old Saratoga". Also shown in the picture are Dean Alan Kelly and Mr. Gilbert Sheck.

Through their efforts *A Weekend in Old Saratoga*, a non-profit group dedicated to raising funds for national and local causes, has donated over \$327,000 over

the last three years to New Bolton Center. The 1995 "An Evening in Old Saratoga" gala was dedicated to the memory of Lawrence E. Ensor, Jr., the late executive

vice-president of the Fasig-Tipton Company.

The 1996 activities of the group at Saratoga from August 1 through August 5 will again benefit New Bolton Center. ■

