



## Feline Blood Types and Histocompatibility Issues

**B**lood type compatibility is crucial to the success of a transfusion, as well as to the health of a newborn kittens. Dr. Urs Giger, Charlotte Newton Sheppard

Professor of Medicine at the School, gave the symposium lecture on feline blood types, and discussed their pertinence to transfusion medicine and cat breeding.

Presently, only one blood group system is recognized in cats. The AB blood group system has three blood types: A, B and AB. The type A allele is dominant over the B allele and the AB type is separately inherited. Of these, type A is the

most prevalent, and type AB by far the rarest. The occurrence of type B blood varies in frequency by breed and geographic region.

In a study of feline blood groups conducted by Dr. Giger's laboratory at the School, over 15,000 cats have been typed since 1986. In the northeastern part of the country, nearly every cat has type A blood, type B cats comprise 0.3 percent of the population, one to two per-

## Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Young Honored

At the 23rd Annual Feline Symposium Dean Kelly honored Mrs. Robert V. Clark, Jr. and Mrs. Edith Young for their support of the School and the Feline Symposium. He presented the Bellwether Medal to each. Following are the citations:

### Elizabeth Dunn Clark

*Elizabeth Dunn Clark, for more than three decades you have been a compassionate and generous supporter and a most valued ambassador to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Four School deans have cherished your wonderfully devoted friendship and ardent spirit. They have valued your enthusiastic dedication to animal health concerns.*

*You have rescued and cared for a multitude of unwanted and neglected animals, numbers too great to estimate, and have been a tenacious advocate for animal welfare. Myriad humane organizations have benefited from your magnanimous generosity and sage guidance in their endeavors.*

*An exhibitor of Labrador retrievers and a renowned breeder, you have set the highest standard of excellence for the dog fancy to exemplify. Springfield Farm's champion Labradors, in addition to nine other breeds, have been prominently honored over the years in shows throughout the United States.*

*Integrally involved over the past two decades to the growth and success of the School's Feline Symposium, Elizabeth Dunn Clark and the Feline Symposium are synonymous. You have contributed immensely to the dissemination of feline health issues and concerns shared with breeders and feline owners through this important educational symposium.*

*Elizabeth Dunn Clark, in recognition of your accomplishments for all animals and their welfare and on the occasion of the 2000 Feline Symposium, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine presents to you the Bellwether Medal.*

Saturday, March 25, 2000  
School of Veterinary Medicine Feline Symposium 2000

### Edith M. Young

*Over many, many years, Edith M. Young, you have graced the School of Veterinary Medicine and its leadership with your incredible Scottish humor and zestful spirit. We are delighted to embrace you as one of our special friends. As a loyal supporter over the past three decades, we are particularly proud to call you our international ambassador.*

*Your earnest pursuit of the dissemination of feline health issues and concerns shared with breeders and feline owners through the Feline Symposium, have earned you the respect of your peers. Your outstanding involvement has been a major component of its success and your participation on the Committee has been invaluable.*

*Rescuing and caring for unwanted animals, here and abroad, you have been a staunch and successful promoter for animal welfare. Many humane societies are grateful for your munificence and counsel in their endeavors. Your extraordinary*

*thoughtfulness has served as an example for others to emulate. We are grateful for your boundless concern and consideration for all animals and your selfless support of all organizations dedicated to animal interests.*

*In recognition for your participation and counsel to the Feline Symposium Committee, and in particular to the School of Veterinary Medicine, we present to you, Edith M. Young, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's Bellwether Medal.*

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Mrs. Young, Dean Kelly, Mrs. Clark.