

Very Much a Doctor

By Dr. Marne Platt V'93

I entered veterinary school planning, as I had since the age of six, to be an equine veterinarian. By my fourth year, however, small questions were tickling the back of my mind; so many fascinating diseases beckoned in small animal practice! Unable to decide, I joined a mixed practice in Califon, NJ. The current practice owners, then senior associates, are both Penn grads (Debbie Cronin, V'80 and MaryBeth Hanorski, V'87) who helped me use my training to pursue a diagnosis and an understanding of the disease, instead of just treating symptoms. The practice owner at the time, Dr. John Kenney, is a Cornell grad who loved to pick on our VMD's but shared our search for knowledge. Starting practice at Califon Animal Hospital showed me that the theory I had learned at Penn really could be integrated into everyday practice, which never really became "everyday".

After two years, personal reasons dictated that I had to move and give up my beloved horse work. I joined the small animal practice of Dr. Michael Tudor. There I was able to fly solo as much as I wanted, or get a second opinion from one of the other six doctors on staff. I also

further honed my surgical skills (who says a Penn grad can't spay a cat in under 15 minutes?) Unfortunately, two years later my immune system had enough. After realizing that I was taking 10-12 antihistamines a day, I visited an MD. My worst fears were confirmed: I am now allergic to most mammals. It seemed that a lifetime of practice was not my destiny.

After scraping my heart off the floor and making the fateful call to Mom and Dad, I set about finding something new to do. After considering pursuing a Ph.D. in public health or some related topic, I finally accepted my current position, Regional Technical Manager for Novartis Animal Health.

My job description is one of the most varied around. I am responsible for the technical training of approximately 15 sales representatives who cover Maine to Maryland, Michigan and Illinois. I provide in-clinic seminars for my colleagues and their staff. I answer calls on our Professional Services phone lines about our products, SENTINEL™, INTERCEPTOR®, and PROGRAM®, and their varied uses. I am the company liaison for five veterinary schools, including Penn, so I spend time at each of them with students, clinicians, researchers and admin-

istrators. I analyze research for its strengths, weaknesses, and various interpretations. Here my Penn education is a real plus: having been taught to analyze every result, question every conclusion, and make my own decisions on the validity of studies, this aspect of my job is a most enjoyable challenge.

I travel an average of three to four days a week, maintaining a strong network of contacts with colleagues and friends. Special projects may involve analyzing raw data (those statistics courses come in handy here) or creating presentations. In each aspect of this position, my Penn training boosts my performance.

My many extracurricular activities while at Penn also contribute to my success. Editing the yearbook, working on Development Office Phone-a-thons, participating in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee, SCAVMA, and the Colic Team, all taught me teamwork and how to survive in a pressure cooker.

My training and education at Penn have helped to make my new career as fulfilling as I ever expected when I set off to "fix horses, Daddy!" I am **Very Much a Doctor!** 🐾

Deubler Laboratory Dedicated

The Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory was dedicated following the Canine Symposium on January 31. Contributions by many individuals and clubs made the establishment and opening of this laboratory possible. Funds are still being raised to complete several projects within the laboratory.

Guests toured the new laboratory, located on the fourth floor of VHUP in the Section of Medical Genetics. The Deubler Laboratory offers DNA, biochemical and immunologic tests for canine and feline genetic diseases. For information on sending samples for testing please contact 215-898-3375 (phone) or 215-573-2162(fax).



Left: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brown and Mr. Daniel Shoemaker tour the laboratory.

Above: Mrs. Connie Vanacore, Dr. Deubler, Dr. Urs Giger, chief, Section of Medical Genetics, and Dr. Joseph Slick in the new laboratory.