

The Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory

Dean Alan M. Kelly announced at the Canine Symposium that the School is establishing the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory. The laboratory is part of a service that will encompass a genetic testing and counseling program in the School's Section of Medical Genetics. It is named after the School's first female graduate, Dr. Josephine Deubler, V'38, who served on the faculty until 1987 and is still active in School affairs. Dr. Deubler is a liaison between the School's veterinary researchers and clinicians and breeders and pet owners. She also is the force behind the annual canine and feline symposia for breeders and owners of dogs and cats.

Hereditary diseases of companion animals are an important problem for breeders and owners. More than 350 inherited disorders have been identified in the dog and over 150 in the cat. As research continues, many more will come to light. To reduce the spread of such disorders in purebred dog and cat populations, breeding animals need to be tested to identify

affected, carrier and healthy animals. The School's Section of Medical Genetics is a pioneer in identifying genetic diseases in companion animals, determining the modes of inheritance, and developing tests to identify affected, carrier and healthy animals.

The Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory will be based upon the research and development in veterinary medical genetics here at the School. Molecular genetic, biochemical and hematologic methods will be used to identify affected and carrier animals. Several genetic tests are now available for hereditary blood and metabolic diseases and blood typing. The genetic testing laboratory is enhanced by a weekly Pediatrics and Genetics Clinic at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) and the Canine Genetic Disease Information System (to be expanded to cats) to provide counseling and advice on the management of affected animals and on breeding companion animals free of genetic dis-

ease. The program will also allow for the investigation of the prevalence of certain genetic diseases and will aid in the identification of new hereditary diseases.

The Genetic Testing and Counseling Program will become a reliable resource at an affordable rate. It will be a non-profit operation under the auspices of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, supported by donations and modest service fees.

The Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory will be operational by early summer.

Support for the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory and the Genetic Testing and Counseling Program has been received from Pedigree® and a number of individual donors. The School is currently engaged in raising the funds to fully support this project that will benefit breeders and owners of companion animals. For further information, please contact the School's Development Office at 215-898-1480. 🐾

An Evening in Old Saratoga



The Gala benefit for New Bolton Center, hosted by An Evening in Old Saratoga on August 5, 1996, raised \$80,430. Shown here are Mrs. Lawrence E. Ensor, Jr. and Mrs. John R. Landan as they present the check to Dr. Virginia B. Reef and Dean Alan M. Kelly on behalf of the Gala Committee. Dr. Reef is having the first transesophageal probe developed in Norway. This instrument will be used for diagnostic purposes in conjunction with the color flow Doppler ultrasound machine acquired with the funds raised by the 1995 Gala. An Evening in Old Saratoga will again host a benefit for New Bolton Center on Saturday, August 2, 1997.

Correction

In *Bellwether 38* we reported that a bequest to support equine endowment had been received from the estate of G. Violet Hayes. This was in error as the last name was misspelled. The bequest was received from the estate of G. Violet Haines.

G. Violet Haines was a long-time Welsh pony breeder and managed a riding school and summer day camp in Gwynedd Valley, PA. She taught generations of children to ride and to enjoy horses, especially her beloved Welsh ponies. She was one of the first Welsh pony breeders to breed her many stallions to Thoroughbred mares to produce show ponies. She was the Pennsylvania Horsebreeder Association's Horsewoman of the Year in 1986. Ms. Haines used the services of New Bolton Center and when she died, at the age of 89, in December of 1992, she left part of her estate to the School. This money will be used to support endowment for equine sports medicine and research in physiology. Her bequest creates a lasting way to reflect her devotion to horses and to Welsh ponies in particular. 🐾