

Veterinary World

SPRING 1998



Field Experience

VETERINARY STUDENTS AND FARMERS
REAP BENEFITS FROM THE BARNYARD

by Jim Grisanzio

Tom Chatkupt had never worked with llamas, which is exactly why his professor sent him to the Hindsight Farm in East Killingly, Conn., to work with Kate and Pat Bars.

"It was pretty exciting to be on a llama farm," said Chatkupt, V00. "The animals were spectacular."

See FIELD, page 6



DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch

VETERINARIANS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

We started 1998 off with a big hit — “Animal Hospital,” NOVA’s one-hour special filmed at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. The show was NOVA’s top-rated this season, and I have received scores of letters of praise from those who saw it. The only complaint was that the film should have been longer to show more cases! This extensive national exposure through the number one science program on television benefits not only Tufts but also the veterinary profession.

I am also pleased to announce that the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Council on Education voted March 24 to grant full accreditation status to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine for an additional seven years. This follows an extensive self-assessment by us and a site visit to our campus last October by seven members of the council.

This issue of *Veterinary World* illustrates some of the ways in which veterinarians contribute to improved public health and welfare.

I point this out to emphasize that one of our goals at Tufts is to be a national leader in the movement toward greater veterinary medical involvement in public health. In the final analysis, beyond what we do directly for the health and well-being of animals, nearly everything we do benefits human health and well-being, too. These benefits include the care we provide animals that are important and sometimes critical to people’s lives and/or livelihood. We are involved in biomedical research, which seeks to understand the mechanisms of disease and leads to the improvement of human health. We are leaders in veterinary medical involvement in biotechnology, developing new animal and human therapeutics. We are engaged in comparative medical research, using what we learn about animal models of human diseases to contribute to improved public health.

Additionally, we are involved in identifying environmental pollutants arising from or affecting animals and in research relative to the control of infectious diseases in animals that can affect humans. Our role in controlling raccoon rabies in Massachusetts is a prime example.

Our commitment to public health is illustrated best by our involvement in the combined D.V.M./M.P.H. degree program at Tufts. This program, which is unique in the nation, allows veterinary students to attain the master’s degree in public health while they are enrolled in the four-year D.V.M. program.

In closing, I am delighted to announce that the speaker for our 16th commencement on May 17 will be Dr. Ray Powell, V85, the first one of our graduates to have this honor. Dr. Powell is New Mexico’s commissioner of public lands and president of the Western States Land Commissioners Association. His involvement in environmental, energy, natural resource and public health issues has led Dr. Powell to his current role as a national leader in public policy.

Phil Kosch

MVMA HONORS ROSS



Dr. James Ross with his MVMA award.

The Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) has honored Dr. James Ross, chair of veterinary clinical sciences at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, with its prestigious Distinguished Service Award for his many years of outstanding service to the veterinary profession.

“This is the MVMA’s highest honor, so I feel very proud,” said Ross, who received the award during the MVMA’s annual winter conference in February. “And it’s always a privilege to be honored by your peers and your friends in the field, although sometimes it makes you feel like you are getting old!”

“Jim Ross honors the profession and therefore honors each one of us. Sincere congratulations and thanks, Dr. Ross, for your many unselfish and dedicated years to veterinary medicine, and in particular to the MVMA and Tufts,” MVMA president Dr. Richard Hersman wrote in *MassVet News*.

On the cover:

Tom Chatkupt, V00, learns how to use a harness and lead by walking Waldo, a young llama living on the Hindsight Farm in East Killingly, Conn.

Photo by Mark Morelli

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Veterinary World

Spring 1998

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PROFILE

Bridging the gap: a veterinarian in public health

Editor's Note: Dr. Michael McGill, V91, has been the state public health veterinarian in Massachusetts since 1992. He heads the Zoonotic Disease Program at the Department of Public Health and chairs the state Rabies Advisory Group, which consists of representatives from three state agencies and several outside organizations that collaborate in the effort to control raccoon rabies in Massachusetts. Now, with dozens of emerging infectious diseases spreading the globe, McGill's leadership is creating new opportunities for young veterinarians to contribute new perspectives.

Q. What is the most important part of being the state public health veterinarian?

Education. We spend a lot of our energies on public health education. For the past five years, we've made April our Rabies Awareness Month with a proclamation signed by the governor. For the past two years, we have sent news releases to all the local boards of health so they can fill in their town's specific information and send the release to their local papers. We don't want to create hysteria, but we do need to inform the public, so we work productively with the media. The goal is to get preventative education out there, so we also work closely with the local schools.

Q. You have been remarkably successful with your rabies program. How so?

The Rabies Advisory Group brings together many organizations, including the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Public Health, the Animal Rescue League, the Massachusetts Medical Society and Tufts' Veterinary



Dr. Michael McGill, V91, outside his home in Jamaica Plain with his dog, Toby.

Photo by Carol Lundeen

Diagnostic Laboratory. It's quite a team. We haven't had any human cases of rabies in the state since the 1930s. And I think that's our greatest success, particularly because we are in the middle of a raccoon rabies outbreak, which has spread to many domestic animals, including cats, dogs and some pigs, horses and other livestock. Our biggest fear is that unvaccinated domesticated animals will serve as bridges between wild animal rabies and humans.

Q. It seems the roles for veterinarians in public health are growing. Why?

They certainly are. And one of the reasons, which is a huge interest of mine, is the field of emerging infectious diseases. Most of what we call emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic diseases, which spread from animals to people or at least have an animal host somewhere along the way. Once a disease crosses the



McGuill accepts the Veterinarian of the Year Award from Dr. Gus Thornton, right, president of the Massachusetts Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals, and Robert S. Cummings, A52, chairman of the MSPCA board.

Photo by Patrice Flesch

species barrier, it can be a really frightening thing. Look at Ebola, Lyme disease, rabies, eastern equine encephalitis, avian flu and food- and water-borne diseases like *E. coli*, cryptosporidium and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Tufts is wise to establish its Center for Conservation Medicine because emerging infectious diseases will be a large part of that program, and veterinarians have a lot to contribute to the study of these diseases.

Q. What fueled your interest in public health?

I got interested while I was in veterinary school. There are many students and professors there doing a lot of really interesting things that you don't see anywhere else. Public health, epidemiology, international veterinary medicine, animals and public policy, wildlife — these are the programs I was really interested in.

Q. You've been honored as the 1997 Veterinarian of the Year by the Massachusetts Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA). What does that mean to you?

It's a double honor for me because this award has never before gone to a veterinarian working in a non-traditional field like public health. I think it's great that there is more recognition of veterinarians doing new and different things. One of the things that has been important to me as a veterinarian is the human/animal bond. And as veterinarians, it's important to be involved with humane societies like the MSPCA.

BRIEFS



NEWSLETTERS WIN INDUSTRY AWARDS

Catnip and *Your Dog*, two popular newsletters published by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, have won awards from the Cat Writers' Association of America and the Dog Writers' Association of America.

Catnip won the 1997 Litter Purrferred Newsletter Award, presented by Super Dry Industries. *Catnip* "stands well above the other entries. It is well-written, easily understood, highly informative and visually compelling," said Mark Chapman in the *Cat Writer's Association Newsletter*. Chapman is books and travel editor for *The Boston Herald* and was judge for the event.

Writers for *Catnip* also pulled in seven awards — four articles won Cat Writers' Association certificates, and two articles were awarded first-place medals. One article received the Dermapet Grooming & Skin Care Award for educating readers about healthy skin.

Your Dog won two Maxwell Awards, one for

best canine newspaper or newsletter and one for best feature article in a canine newspaper or newsletter.

Both newsletters provide leading-edge news about cats and dogs for the pet owner and information about all the veterinary specialties, including behavior, cardiology, nutrition, anesthesia, medicine and surgery.

"The biggest testament to the quality of *Catnip* and *Your Dog* is our readership surveys," said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, professor and director of Tufts' Animal Behavior Clinic. "Ninety percent of the people say that the information is delivered to them at exactly the right level, not too simple, not too complicated. Because the articles are written by professional writers who are also pet owners, they can take these jewels of veterinary information, absorb it and then package it in a way that is easily digestible and graphically appealing."

FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT

Dr. Linda Ross, associate dean for clinical programs and hospital director at the School of Veterinary Medicine, has been selected for a six-month fellowship in veterinary administration by the Fulbright Commission in London. The fellowship is co-sponsored by the Royal College of Veterinary Science in the United Kingdom.

Ross will take a one-year sabbatical beginning in July to study information technology in the United Kingdom as it relates to veterinary school administration. Her research is intended to improve clinical case management, consultation and education.

"Specifically, I'm looking at what technology is available in England and exploring the British expertise in using information technology at veterinary schools," Ross said. "I'm also going to do a comparison to Tufts and several other veterinary schools in the United States."

"I'm most interested in telemedicine, which is remote consulting electronically," Ross said. "But I'll



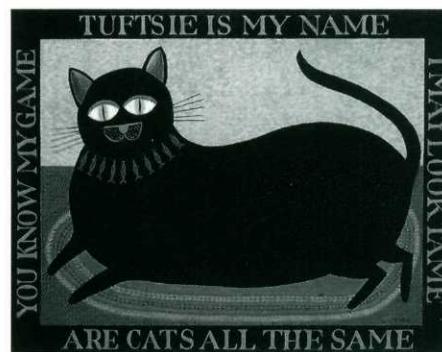
Dr. Linda Ross

Photo by Mark Morelli

touch on informatics as well, which is the management of information (medical records, clinical studies) as opposed to using information technology and computers to teach."

Ross said she would like to explore the possibility of doing more interactive education programs with schools in the United Kingdom that she hopes will lead to opportunities for collaborative education and research for faculty and students. In England, Ross will be visiting the Royal College of Veterinary Medicine in London as well as several other veterinary schools.

SALE OF PAINTING TO BENEFIT TUFTS



"Tuftsie" by Cape Cod artist Rosebee will be among the offerings at Skinner's auction of American and European paintings in Boston at Heritage on the Garden May 8 at 7 p.m.

Rosebee has works in major museums and col-

lections throughout Europe and the United States.

The painting is expected to sell for up to \$5,000. Proceeds will benefit Tufts' Stanley O. Travis Fund, which provides financial support for found animals and for companion animals whose owners cannot afford the full cost of critical, but unanticipated, veterinary care.

For further information, call Colleen Fesko or Robin Starr at Skinner at (978) 779-6241.

PET LOSS SUPPORT HOTLINE EXPANDED

When your pet dies and there's no one to talk to, you can call someone who understands — a student at the School of Veterinary Medicine's Pet Loss Support Hotline.

Because of increased demand, the Tufts students have expanded the hotline's hours to five days a week. Callers now can reach one of 23 veterinary students Monday through Friday nights from 6 to 9. The hotline is one of nine grief-counseling services in the country that is affiliated with a veterinary school.

"The response has been overwhelmingly great," said Jane Linden, V99. "Most of the people who call us feel that they have worn out their family or friends, or they are just afraid of talking about their loss. They need to realize that it's okay to feel sad."

Since the hotline was established in 1996, more than 50 students have been trained in grief counseling, and they have responded to more than 400 calls.

"Many people feel guilty, like they haven't done enough for their pet," Linden said. "Maybe their pet was critically ill, and they decided to euthanize. Now, perhaps, they feel they made the decision too quickly. But what's fascinating is that each one of them is the best pet owner. They couldn't have done anything else for their pets, but they wanted to do more."

Linden has a master's degree in social work and worked as a therapist before she enrolled in veterinary school. "I really, really love animals, and I know how hard it is to lose them," she said. "Even now when I go back to my mother's house, I still

expect to see my dog at the top of the stairs, even though we had to put her to sleep 20 years ago. I grew up with her, and like most pet owners, you never really get over it."

Students working on the hotline participate in two full-day workshops with Lori Rios, a counselor on Tufts' undergraduate campus. Topics include listening skills, dealing with people in intense emotional crisis and understanding grief. Rios also runs monthly meetings with the students so they can talk about their experiences with callers and any issues that arise from their conversations. Students also receive guidance from Dr. Antony Moore, associate professor of clinical sciences at the veterinary school. The hotline is funded by private donations and a grant from the IAMS Pet Food Co.

"Every veterinary student should consider staffing the hotline," said Emily Cornwall, V00. "You aren't going to get this kind of experience any other way."

Pet owners can call Tufts' Pet Loss Support Hotline at (508) 839-7966, Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m.



This spring, Jane Linden, V99, right, hands the directorship of the Pet Loss Support Hotline off to Emily Cornwall, V00, left.

Photo by Mark Morelli.

'ANIMAL HOSPITAL'



Top:

Dr. Anthony Schwartz, associate dean for academic and outreach programs at the veterinary school, and Dr. Randy Boudrieau, associate professor of surgery, who appears in the film doing a hip replacement on a dog.

Middle:

After working with NOVA for more than a year, the veterinary school community got a chance to see portions of the final product at a pre-screening celebration at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston.

Bottom:

Guests at the celebration take in some of the exhibits at the zoo's African Tropical Forest Building.

Photos by Mark Morelli

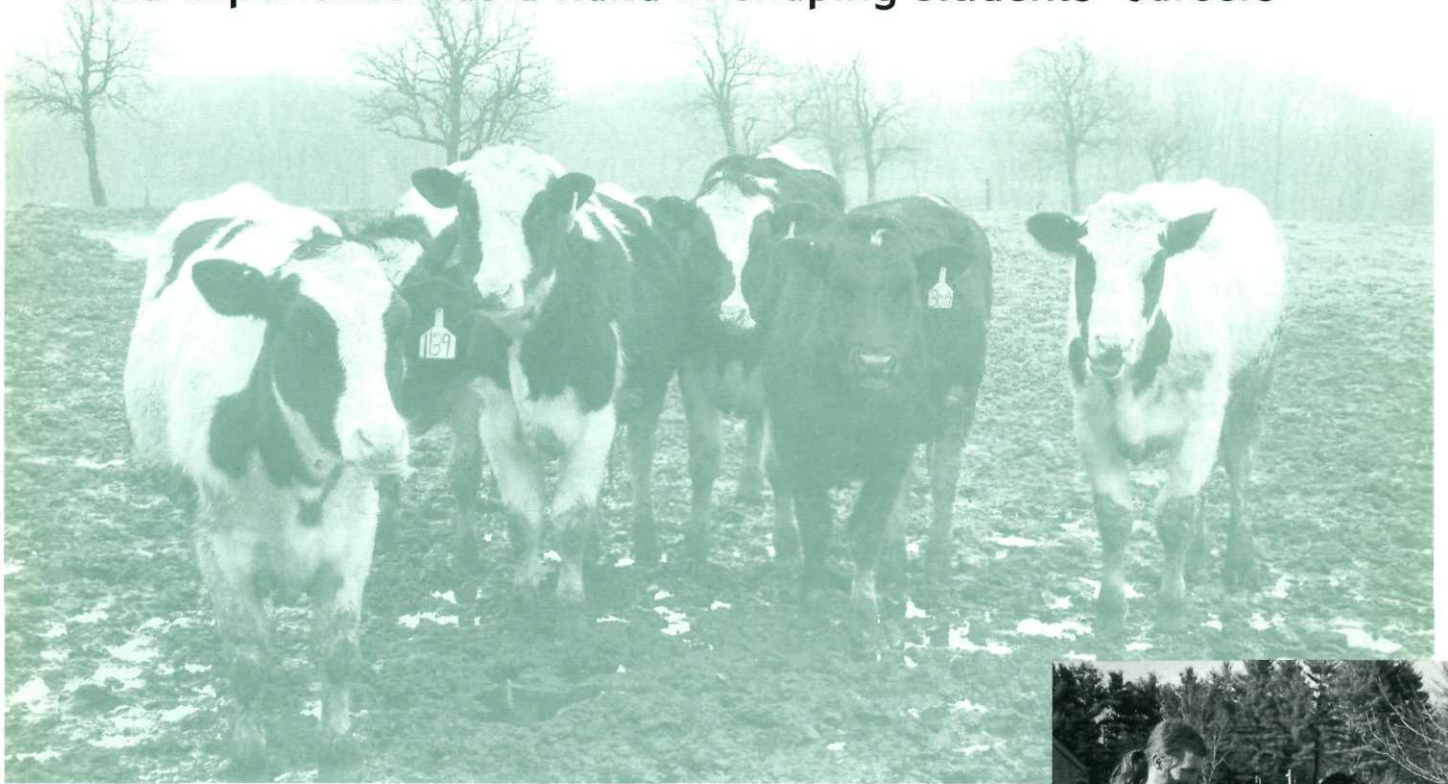
The School of Veterinary Medicine was in the national spotlight on February 3, when NOVA, the award-winning PBS science series, broadcast "Animal Hospital," a documentary that followed fourth-year Tufts veterinary students from their first encounters with patients through graduation.

The show reached a national audience through 300 PBS stations and was NOVA's highest-rated program this year. Co-producers Michael Barnes and Joe McMaster shot more than 70 hours of tape for the one-hour program.

Faculty, staff and students on the Grafton campus got an advance look at portions of the film January 22, during a pre-screening celebration at Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, where some of the film was shot.

"Animal Hospital" will air again nationally on PBS July 28.

Field experience has a hand in shaping students' careers



These 16-month-old heifers are but a few of the dairy cows at Cooper's Hilltop Farm in Rochdale, Mass. The Cooper family has been raising cows and selling dairy products for 80 years.

Continued from page 1

For the last five years, Chatkupt and other students at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine have visited farms throughout New England to

learn about large animals as part of a required two-day course for first-year students called Adopt-a-Veterinary Student.

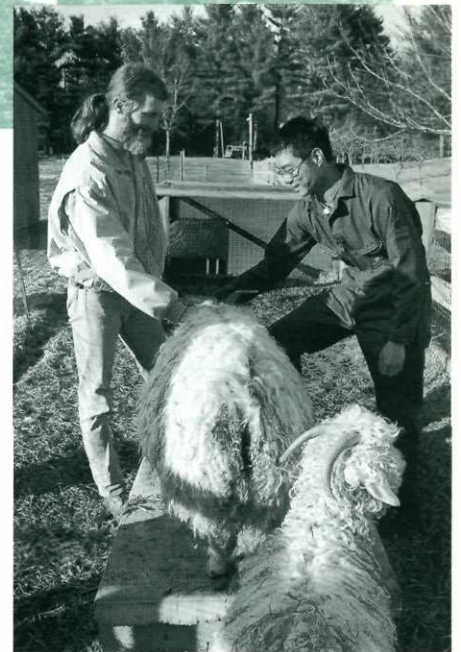
Chatkupt had no experience with large animals, but like most veterinary students, his interests expanded when he got to school. "I was all set to work with small animals, and I was particularly interested in veterinary acupuncture — and I still am — but now I'm really considering a career in large animal medicine as a

result of this experience. Large animal medicine is more big-picture medicine. It deals with balancing production, herd management and the environment. So in that sense, it's more globally applicable than small animal medicine."

Kate and Pat Bars, who own the 40-acre Hindsight Farm, have 21 llamas, two Angora goats, some chickens and a cat or two. They've been adopting Tufts veterinary students for four years. "Both Pat and I believe that it's important for the students to mingle with the animals early in their education," Kate Bars said.

Knowledge of llama behavior is crucial to maintaining their health. "One time we noticed one of the animals lying down in a certain position during the wrong time of the year, and that tipped us off that something was wrong," Pat Bars said. "So teaching the students to observe the behavior of the animal is very, very important. It turns out in this case, the llama had a perforated ulcer, and Dr. Saperstein was able to save her."

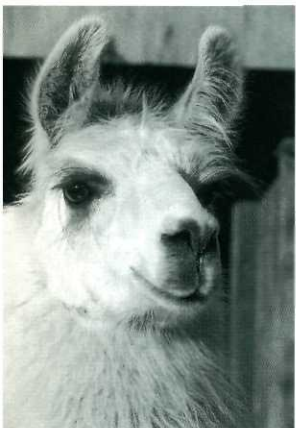
It was Dr. George Saperstein, associate professor and director of the Tufts Ambulatory Clinic in Wood-



Pat Bars, left, owner of the Hindsight Farm in East Killingly, Conn., explains to student Tom Chatkupt, V00, about the products that come from these Angora goats.

stock, Conn., who came up with the idea for the Adopt-a-Veterinary Student program. He felt that exposing students to the farm experience early in their education was critical.

"Years ago, young people worked on the farm to get the experience they thought they needed to get into veterinary school," Saperstein said. "And when they did get into veterinary school, a lot of these farmers



Waldo, a young male, is one of 21 llamas at the Hindsight Farm.



Bethany Murray, left, and Beth Salzman, both V001, are considering careers in large animal medicine as a result of the Adopt-a-Veterinary Student program.

would talk about the students as if they were their offspring, saying 'Oh, you know Mike, the guy who used to milk cows for me. Well he's getting straight A's now in veterinary school. He's going to be a great veterinarian some day.' "

The bonds the farmers had for their apprentices inspired Saperstein. "In a way, these farmers adopted these students," he said. "And they followed them for years, well into their careers. So that's how we came up with the idea."

And it worked. Five years into the program, the majority of students report positive experiences. The farmers are thrilled. And Saperstein has his students right where he wants them: Learning in the field.

Adopt-a-Veterinary Student is successful because everyone involved has a stake in the outcome. "The farmer is responsible for putting the student to work and for getting the student involved in the operation," Saperstein said. "I tell the farmers, 'If the day the student comes to the farm you have to spend half a day shoveling manure, fine. Give the student a shovel, but you shovel with him or her and explain where the manure came from, where it's going, what it's good for, what its value is.' This way, the student works but learns, too. Everyone wins that way. The students want that practical knowledge."

Working with farm animals also altered career goals for first-year students Beth Salzman and Bethany Murray. Both spent a weekend last fall at the Peaceful Meadows Dairy Farm in Whitman, Mass. Both had no previous experience with farm animals, and both now are considering large animal veterinary medicine as a specialty.

"This is an important program because it introduces us to the production species," Murray said. "I have never worked with dairy cows, and the herdsman, Henry Ford, was very helpful by introducing me to milking the cows and feeding the cows and helping me feel more comfortable around these animals. This experience definitely opened my mind to large animal practice, and in particular to dairy cows."

On the dairy farm, the students learned about farm machinery, feeding, calving, breeding and farm economics. And they learned that farming is hard work. "Oh, yes," said Salzman. "By the end of the day we were both really tired. It's definitely labor-intensive, but I would love to have a job where I'm active like this."

Another farm participating in the program is the Cooper's Hilltop Dairy Farm in Rochdale, Mass., a family-run business for 80 years that has 59 milking cows.

Farmers in southern New England who are interested in adopting veterinary students can call Dr. George Saperstein or Lynne LaPensee at (860) 974-2780.



Richard Cooper, right, shows first-year veterinary students Bethany Murray, left, and Beth Salzman how to feed this two-day-old calf.

Photos by Mark Morelli

"It's always great to work with the students," farm owner Richard Cooper said. "Most of them have never worked with large animals before, but we bring them into the barn with us. They help us with the feeding, the cleaning and even the milking, so they start getting experience actually putting their hands on the animals." Cooper's is one of 35 farms participating in the course.

"It was great for me," Salzman said. "I didn't have any experience with large animals. I found out I really like cows."

NEW LEADER, NEW CHALLENGE

CENTER FOR ANIMALS MOVES AHEAD WITH AMBITIOUS AGENDA

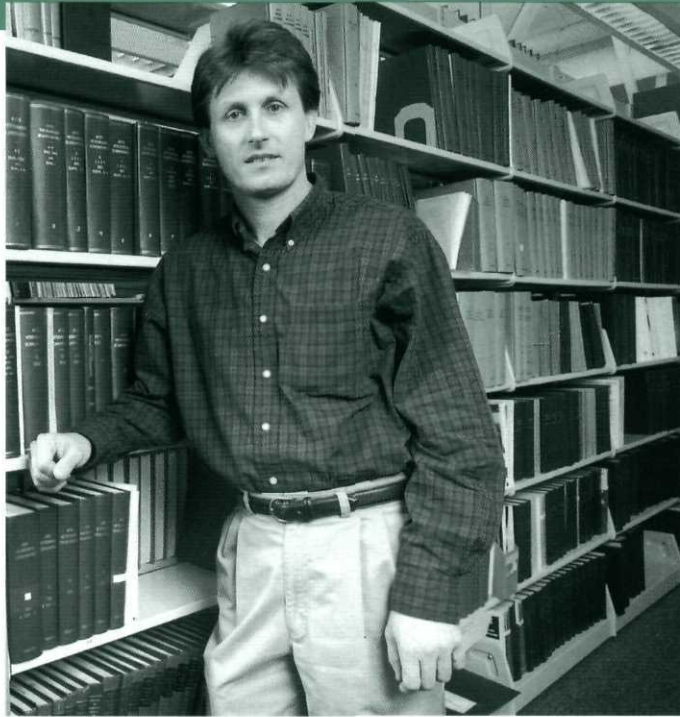
Dr. Gary Patronek, a veterinarian and epidemiologist, has been appointed the second director of Tufts' Center for Animals and Public Policy, a think tank that studies some of the most contentious issues involving animals in our society.

"Dr. Patronek joined our veterinary faculty in 1996, and soon he found himself facing the daunting challenge of carrying on the work of the center without its founding director, Dr. Andrew Rowan," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. (Rowan left Tufts last fall to become senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States.)

For more than a decade, the center has provided a forum for constructive debate for researchers and policymakers grappling with issues involving biotechnology, the human/animal bond, the use of animals in research and wildlife and farm animal issues.

Patronek earned his V.M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984 and intended to stay in small animal practice. He said other areas, however, were piquing his interests, including public health and the human/animal bond: After several years of general practice, Patronek became director of the Chester County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in southeastern Pennsylvania.

"I really liked that position," Patronek said. "It extended my view of veterinary medicine because it involved public health. At the time, we were right in the middle of a rabies outbreak in the East, and our county actually had the highest number of confirmed cases in the nation, so it was really a media frenzy. I got a chance to see that veterinary medicine played an important role in these public health and animal welfare issues."



As the new director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy, Dr. Gary Patronek said the center will reach out to new constituencies.

Photo by Mark Morelli

In 1992, Patronek accepted a fellowship in epidemiology at Purdue with an emphasis on issues important for companion animals' health and welfare. He stayed on at Purdue, earning a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

Patronek's current plans for the center are ambitious. "In the immediate future we'll be focusing on companion animals and environmental issues. We are also going to reach out to the other constituencies — people in human health, in wildlife, in public policy."

Those plans already are bearing fruit. In June, the center will host a conference on Tufts' Boston campus, probing how companion animal interaction can promote human health (*see sidebar*). "We are beyond anecdotal evidence now," Patronek said. "Researchers are demonstrating health care cost savings, decreases in medication usage, fewer visits to physicians and improved psychological well-being as a result of people's interaction with companion animals."

Other issues the center is investigating include pet overpopulation, feral cats and the relatively unknown problem of animal collecting, known as human hoarding behavior.

Jim Grisanzio

CONFERENCE EXPLORES HUMAN/ANIMAL BOND

The Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy will sponsor a conference in June that will explore the human/animal bond and how this bond is actually helping people improve their overall well-being

The conference, "Enhancing Human Health and Quality of Life Through Companion Animal Interaction," will be held on Saturday, June 20, at the Arthur M. Sackler Center for Health Communications, 145 Harrison Ave., on Tufts' Boston campus.

A dozen researchers, including veterinarians, public health officials, psychologists, epidemiologists and physicians from around the nation will gather to discuss the clinical value of human/animal interaction by highlighting innovative programs in both community and institutional settings.

The cost is \$50, and \$20 for students with a valid ID. For registration information, contact Kim Trombley at cfaap@tufts.edu or call the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy at (508) 839-5302.

RESEARCH

FDA APPROVES FIRST BLOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR CANINE ANEMIA

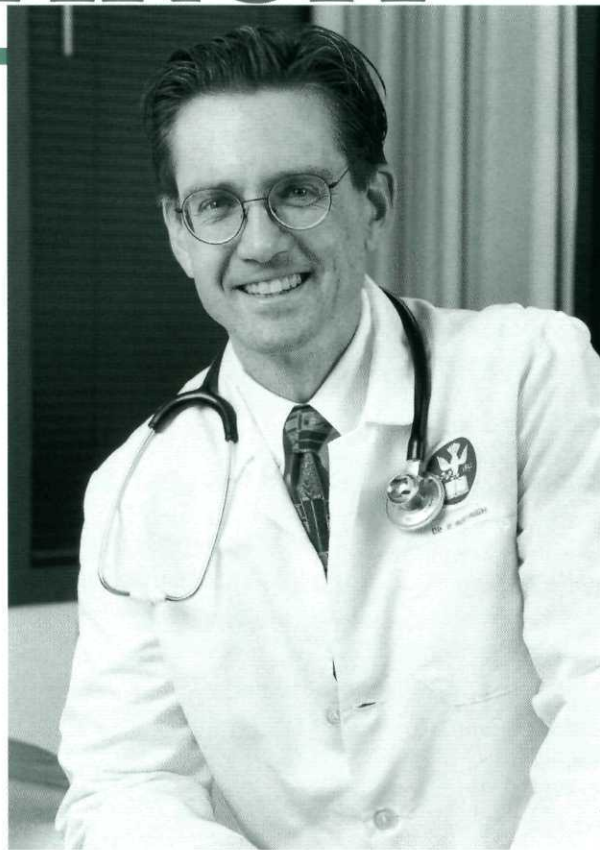
HUMAN CLINICAL TRIALS ARE UNDER WAY IN U.S. AND EUROPE

A study done at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine has led to the nation's first blood substitute that could dramatically reduce the demand for fresh blood in emergency situations and save tens of thousands of critically injured animals.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave regulatory approval to Biopure Corp., a biotechnology company based in Cambridge, Mass., and the study's sponsor, to market Oxyglobin, the nation's first-ever oxygen therapeutic blood substitute for treating canine anemia. Clinical trials are ongoing for another Biopure blood substitute that could be used in human medicine.

"This is very exciting," said Dr. Robert Murtaugh, professor of medicine at Tufts and principal investigator for the eight-month clinical trial. "Oxyglobin is the first alternative to donated blood, so this is really a revolutionary development because the product quickly delivers oxygen into tissue and organs and buys time for the dog's own regenerative red blood cells to come back."

Oxyglobin is created by using purified hemoglobin molecules derived from cow's blood. Hemoglobin in red blood cells delivers oxygen throughout the body, but anemia



Dr. Robert Murtaugh led the Tufts clinical research team in collaboration with Biopure Corp. to develop Oxyglobin, the nation's first FDA-approved blood substitute for veterinary medicine.

Photo by Mark Morelli

results if the number of red cells is reduced, as often happens during trauma, starving bodily tissues of oxygen. This potentially life-threatening condition often goes untreated in dogs.

"When the history of 20th-century medicine is written, the development of oxygen therapeutics will be listed among the top 10 advances."

Dr. C. Everett Koop

"Anemia is a common condition in dogs that often is not treated because donated blood is either not available or is too labor intensive to administer," Murtaugh said. "Because Oxyglobin is easily accessible, it will give every veterinarian the

ability to treat anemic dogs quickly, effectively and safely."

Biopure estimates that the worldwide veterinary market for Oxyglobin will grow to \$100 million. The company's similar blood substitute products for humans are in advanced clinical trials in the United States and Europe.

Researchers in government and the private sector have been working to develop a blood substitute for use in humans for more than 50 years. Efforts intensified in the early 1980s with the advent of AIDS and the risk of transmitting HIV and other infectious diseases, such as hepatitis, via donated blood.

"When the history of 20th-century medicine is written, the development of oxygen therapeutics will be listed among the top 10 advances," said Dr. C. Everett Koop, former U.S. surgeon general and a Biopure director.

Jim Grisanzio

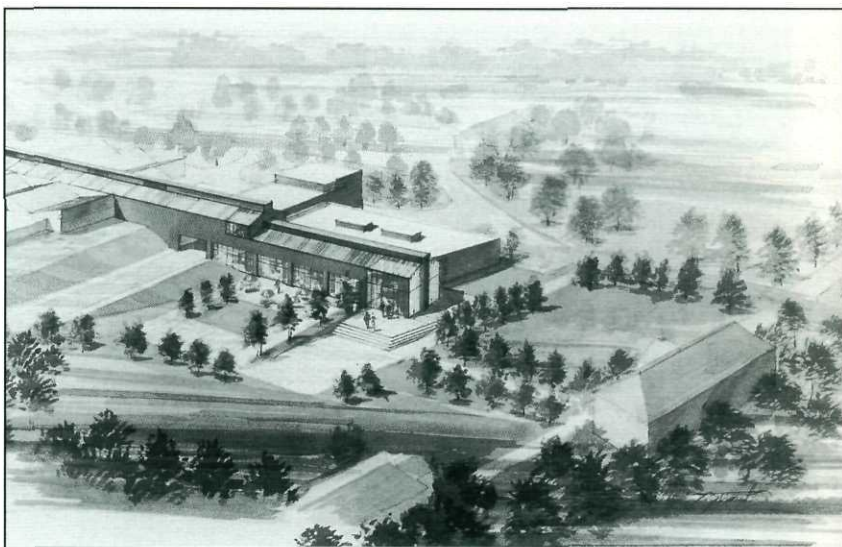
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign, Tufts University's largest fund-raising effort ever, is progressing strongly. The university has raised more than \$277 million of its total \$400 million goal. The School of Veterinary Medicine has been gratified to receive gifts totaling \$34.5 million, representing 84 percent of its \$41 million goal.

The school has been honored by the support of the veterinary community — alumni, parents, non-alumni veterinarians and animal health, pet food and pet products companies, and by the support of animal owners, clients of our hospitals, foundations and neighbors and friends who respect the school's programs and services. Below are just a few examples of those who are helping us succeed:

- Charles and Barbara Wilcox of Alexander, N.C., gave \$50,000 to establish the **Charles E. and Barbara H. Wilcox Endowed Scholarship Fund**.
- Trudy Lanman of Newton, Mass., has established the **Gertrude Lanman Endowed Fund for Canine Theriogenology** to support teaching and research.
- Rawson Wood of Boston and Center Harbor, N.H., a longtime supporter of the wildlife medicine program, and Lyman Wood of Hampden, Mass., father of Dr. Emilia Wood, V94, have committed \$60,000 and \$50,000, respectively, toward the construction of a **new Wildlife Clinic**.
- A \$60,000 grant from the Regina Frankenberg Foundation of New York City will support research and teaching initiatives undertaken by the **Center for Animals and Public Policy**.

If you would like to know more about *Tufts Tomorrow* and how you can participate, contact Shelley Rodman, director of veterinary development, at (508) 839-7907, or e-mail srodman@infonet.tufts.edu



New education building gains support

Charitable foundations are helping Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine prepare veterinary education initiatives for the new millennium.

"We are grateful for the support local foundations have provided to help construct our Veterinary Academic and Lifelong Education Building. This new facility will allow us to unify all four classes on the Grafton campus," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Currently, first-year veterinary students attend classes on Tufts' Health Sciences campus in Boston with medical and dental students. The new building, which will be a major addition to the Hospital for Large Animals, will include an anatomy laboratory, a lecture hall, seminar rooms, ancillary teaching spaces and a study area.

"Tufts' veterinary school is a unique and important resource for Massachusetts and New England, and we've been involved in the development of the school almost from the beginning," said Russell E. Fuller, chairman of the George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, which has contributed funding for the new building. "Having all the students on the Grafton campus with the clinical faculty, the wonderful hospital facilities and the animals is essential for the school's progress."

Other local foundations that have contributed to the project include the George I. Alden Trust, the Wyman-Gordon Foundation, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, the Stoddard Charitable Trust and the Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation. A Boston-based foundation, which wishes to remain anonymous, recently made a \$300,000 commitment to the building. With these gifts, the School of Veterinary Medicine has raised \$1.5 million toward the \$4.25 million project.

Phelps hits one out of the park for veterinary education at Tufts

Dick Phelps clearly remembers July 25, 1941, a sweltering day when 41-year-old Robert Moses Grove — known as “Lefty” to everyone but his mom — took the mound at Fenway Park to pitch nine gutsy innings against Cleveland. It was the 300th victory of Grove’s Hall of Fame career.

A self-described “baseball nut,” Phelps, an overseer to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, probably could tell you what pitch was working best for Grove that day or whether the notoriously hot-tempered hurler kicked over a water cooler as he often did.

Ever since 1933, when his father, a night-shift newspaperman from Watertown, Mass., took him to Fenway for the first time, baseball has been a big part of Phelps’ life. His pitching arm merited enough attention from coaches at Phillips Andover Academy and then Yale University to get him a financial aid offer. (A Phelps memory from his freshman year at Yale involves a tall left-handed Eli who anchored first base on the varsity squad — George Bush.)

He attributes his success over the past 30 years as owner of a successful pet products company to the education he received at Andover and Yale. Without significant financial aid, he said he could not have attended those first-class institutions.

Now Phelps has created an endowed scholarship fund at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine through an outright gift and a charitable remainder unitrust. The gifts follow Phelps’ consistently generous support of the Tufts Veterinary Fund. “I’m in a position to be philanthropic, and

From left, Philip G. Salem, senior director of development; veterinary overseer Richard J. Phelps and Brian K. Lee, director of development.

Photo by J.D. Sloan



I’ve decided that what drives me most is providing young people who don’t have the financial wherewithal with the resources to attend top-notch schools like Tufts,” Phelps said from his office at Phelps Industries Inc. in Quincy, Mass. “When these students graduate, they’ll be in a position to contribute their talents to this country, and hopefully, give back in a meaningful philanthropic way themselves.”

After Yale, Phelps served three years in the Army during the Korean War. He then went back to Boston’s old leather district where he had worked summers since age 16. Howes Leather Co. was looking to diversify, and Phelps was looking to make use of the enormous piles of scrap hide that the business produced. So Phelps created a subsidiary of Howes — Superior Brands Inc. — that twisted the scraps into chew toys for pets. He eventually became the sole owner of Superior, which was recording sales of \$65 million when Nestle bought it in 1990. He then created Phelps Industries, which, among other interests, distributes dog and cat products and household wares to supermarkets. In 1990, he joined the Board of Overseers to the veterinary school.

Phelps said Tufts appeals to him for a variety of reasons, not

least of which is its leadership. Dr. Henry L. Foster, V83, H92, university trustee and chairman of the veterinary overseers, has impressed him with his overwhelming commitment to the veterinary school. And Phelps adds that Tufts President John DiBiaggio, a friend (and frequent tennis opponent), has brought the leadership that a major university requires.

“I gave an outright gift because I wanted to build the Phelps Scholarship Fund now,” he said. “One of the most important things you can do is to give when you’re alive because you get enjoyment out of helping others.”

Now that spring has arrived, Phelps once again will experience the joys of Fenway.

“My father used to say when the Sox were playing poorly, ‘What do you say we stay for one more at bat by Ted Williams?’ ” Phelps recalls. And that, in effect, is what Phelps is doing today: Watching Tufts veterinary students take another good cut at an excellent education unburdened a bit by post-graduation debt. As they cross home plate on graduation day, they can give a tip of the hat to Richard J. Phelps — a great fan of animals, baseball and, above all, education.

John LoDico

FINISH

RESCUE ON
CAPE COD

Dr. Rose Borkowski, a veterinarian at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, examines a stranded white-sided dolphin at Duck Creek on Cape Cod in January.

Ninety-seven dolphins became stranded along Cape Cod beaches in Wellfleet, Eastham, Brewster and Yarmouth during a massive mid-winter Nor'easter. None survived. Although scientists have not determined the cause for the stranding, they point to a combination of natural factors, including bad weather, high tides, a full moon and shallow waters.

The rescue was coordinated by the New England Aquarium and included Tufts, the Audubon Society, the Center for Coastal Studies, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the International Wildlife Coalition, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Cape Marine Animal Rescue and Conservation Organization. Local volunteers also assisted in the effort to save the dolphins.

As part of their training, Tufts veterinary students rotating through the exotics service travel with Borkowski to the New England Aquarium in Boston to treat marine animal species and work with aquarium veterinarians.

Photo by Barry Donahue, *The Cape Codder*

Veterinary World

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SAVE THE DATE!
Tufts' 15th annual
Open House is
Saturday, September 12



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