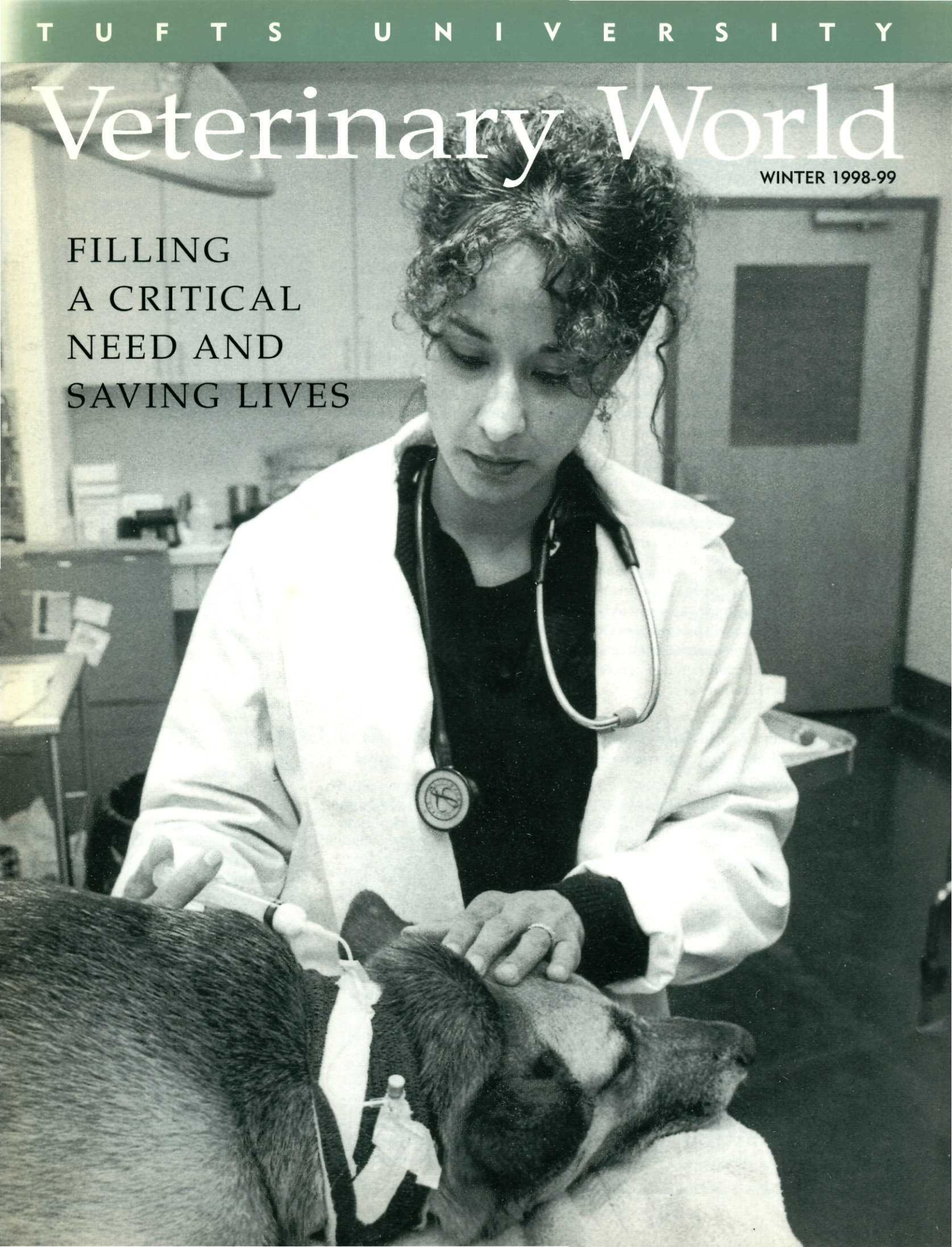


Veterinary World

WINTER 1998-99

FILLING
A CRITICAL
NEED AND
SAVING LIVES





DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch

IN SERVICE TO ANIMALS AND TO PEOPLE

Veterinary medicine is a clinical profession first and foremost. As veterinarians, we are known for our compassion for animals, their health, welfare and conservation. Our work is varied, and our contributions are diverse. This is most obvious through our commitment to the development and delivery of leading-edge patient care.

This issue of *Veterinary World* illustrates a major contribution of Tufts to the delivery of state-of-the-art emergency medicine and critical care. We are justly proud of our faculty and animal health technicians who have set the standard for the most sophisticated level of care offered anywhere to animals who are in an emergency or critical condition. Ours is the largest training program for interns and residents in the country.

Another way we contribute is through our commitment to outreach. As educators, our veterinary faculty's obligation to our students doesn't end after graduation. Continuing education and lifelong learning for graduate veterinarians is vital to our mission. We are also committed to the education of the animal-owning public and to members of animal industries.

We are going to welcome the next millennium in a major way at Tufts! We have decided to significantly increase our efforts to enhance the level of veterinary health care in New England with a major event to be held in Boston each year. The inaugural Tufts Animal Expo will take place in October 2000, and is designed to bring together veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students, other animal care professionals, and manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of veterinary and animal care products and services.

This will be a unique outreach event within and beyond the veterinary community. We believe the annual Animal Expo will become the premier meeting devoted to animal health, well-being and conservation in the world. We'll keep you informed as we make further progress.

There are many ways that the school can use its unique expertise through its faculty, staff and students. I want to point out the article in this issue of *Veterinary World* on one of our wonderful students, Stephanie Wong, V99. Outreach programs that Stephanie has created serve youth in our community and many special people, such as those with AIDS, who are more dependent on animal companionship than most of us. Please read about these public service programs delivered by volunteer students at Tufts. If pride is a sin, then consider me a sinner!

Finally, I'd like to announce two very exciting speakers who will appear at our commencement ceremonies on May 23, 1999. The commencement address will be delivered by Dr. Eric Chivian, director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Chivian was a co-founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. We will also be honored to have Dr. Robert Pinsky, poet laureate of the United States and proud parent of Caroline Pinsky, V99. He will close our ceremony with a poetry reading. Plan to attend.

Phil Kosch

CHAIR OF SUFFOLK DOWNS APPOINTED OVERSEER

Patricia "Trish" Moseley, who has worked to improve horse racing in New England and has been active in the Thoroughbred racing industry, has been appointed to Tufts University's Board of Overseers for Veterinary Medicine.

Tufts' overseers are national and international leaders from business, academia and other fields who provide assistance and guidance to the university's president and Board of Trustees.

Moseley is the widow of James Brady Moseley, a former state representative and the state's associate racing commissioner. Together, they owned and bred Thoroughbred horses for nearly 40 years. He also was chairman of Suffolk Downs Race Track in East Boston, and Trish Moseley succeeded him as chair after his death.

Trish Moseley owns and operates Ardboe Stable, which has bred stakes winners Drumtop and Topside. She was active with the U.S. Pony Club for many years.

She provided the leadership that brought critical resources to the Tufts veterinary school during its early years and has helped to build the school's base of support.

On the cover:

If it's a matter of life or death, it's business as usual in the ER at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals. Dr. Nishi Dhupa prepares a dog for a biopsy.

Photo by Mark Morelli

T U F T S U N I V E R S I T Y

Veterinary World

WINTER 1998-99

Executive Editor	Dr. Philip C. Kosch, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine
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Editorial Adviser	Shelley Rodman, Director, Veterinary Development
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Graphic Designers	Ron Bourgeois, Julie Steinhilber

Veterinary World is published three times a year and is distributed to key university personnel, veterinary students, veterinarians, alumni and others with an interest in the development of the school. We welcome your letters, story ideas and suggestions. Correspondence should be sent to: Editor, *Veterinary World*, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, 200 Westboro Road, North Grafton, MA 01536. Telephone: (508) 839-7910. Web site: www.tufts.edu/vet

CAMPUS

Fourth-year student honored for community service



Stephanie Wong, V99, works with middle school students in the Gap Junction program.

Photo by Mark Morelli

Stephanie Wong, V99, has been recognized for her community service work by the Colleges of Worcester Consortium (COWC), an organization of 10 institutions of higher education in central Massachusetts.

Wong received the Outstanding Student Award during COWC's celebration of its 30th anniversary October 22 in Worcester's Higgins Armory Museum. She received a check for \$500 and a plaque.

Recognizing the need for more science education in inner-city schools, Wong and Duffy Jones, V99, created Gap Junction, a program that teaches science to middle school students in Worcester, Grafton, South Boston and Roxbury.

Gap Junction has three goals: To excite middle school students about science; to give veterinary students an opportunity to use their professional skills and to increase the inter-

action between health professional schools and the community. The program has been funded by the Massachusetts Campus Compact, a statewide organization of college and university presidents, and by COWC.

Wong has maintained her commitment to community service throughout her years at Tufts. She also developed Healthy Pets, Healthy People, a program in which Tufts veterinary students go into the community to talk about the health risks and benefits of pet ownership. A paper Wong wrote on that initiative recently was selected as the third-place winner in a writing contest sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition and the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. The paper has been submitted for publication in *The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*.

Rabies prevention program enters 6th year

The successful raccoon rabies prevention program that has virtually eradicated the disease on Cape Cod at a time when other parts of the state have experienced an increase in rabies, continued this fall as scientists from Tufts' veterinary school dropped fish-meal baits across 170 square miles.

The project, in its sixth year, has prevented rabies from spreading to Cape Cod by creating a 12-mile-wide "rabies vaccine zone" adjacent to the Cape Cod Canal.

Since raccoon rabies entered the state in 1992, approximately 2,500 raccoons have tested positive for the disease. Last summer, state officials declared absolute success on the Cape with not a single case of raccoon rabies recorded.

About 35,000 fish-meal baits containing a genetically engineered oral raccoon rabies vaccine were distributed in late October. Most of the baits were scattered by hand along the sides of roads, and the State Police provided helicopters to spread the baits over sparsely developed areas.

"This program's success is truly a model for the rest of the nation and really, the world," said Dr. Alison Robbins, co-principal investigator and project coordinator for Tufts' rabies program. "Other areas around the nation have not been as successful as we've been in Massachusetts, so they turn to us for advice. We've also shared our results with France and Belgium. Our immediate concern is to push the rabies-free barrier outward, to move from the Cape Cod Canal in an ever-widening circle."

The program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with money appropriated by the state legislature. Cape Cod's legislative delegation has been a strong advocate for the program.

State officials say that incidences of rabies are rising in Massachusetts. Treating a human infected with the disease costs approximately \$2,500 for a series of vaccines.

"It's gratifying that veterinary medicine can have such a profound impact on human health for people visiting or residing on the Cape," said Dr. Steven L. Rowell, V83, co-principal investigator on the rabies project and director of the Tufts Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. "This program has worked so much better than we ever envisioned six years ago."

John LoDico

CAMPUS

Fido may know more than just a few tricks

It's no secret that birds can squawk across a field to warn their flock-mates of impending danger, or that clever apes can signal their desire for, say, a glass of water by using American Sign Language.

But what is uncertain — and what has caused debate in the scientific community — is whether an animal's communication activity actually is the result of a deeper cognitive ability.

Are animals merely mimicking a learned response, or are they thinking, reasoning beings able to amass knowledge in a very sophisticated way?

Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy is exploring animal cognition and communication in a monthly lecture series that began this fall.

Each month's lecture is free and open to the public. They run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school's Franklin M. Loew Veterinary Medical Education Center, 200 Westboro Road, North Grafton.

The lectures feature some of the nation's foremost experts in the intriguing field that focuses on how animals think and communicate. Upcoming speakers and their topics include:

January 13, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author: "Windows on the Natural World: How We View Companion Animals and How They View Us"

February 3, Dr. Temple Grandin, assistant professor, animal sciences department, Colorado State University: "How Animals Think"

March 3, Dr. Peter L Tyack, associate scientist, Woods Hole Oceano-

graphic Institution: "Acoustic Communication in Dolphins"

March 31, Dr. Irene M. Pepperberg, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, University of Arizona: "Avian Communication and Cognition"

April 28, Dr. Joyce Poole, researcher, African Wildlife Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya: "The Use of Sound by Elephants"

Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy deals with a variety of public policy issues, including human-animal relationships and animal ethics. The center offers a master's degree program and maintains a web site at: www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa Please check this site for changes in the above schedule, or call the center at (508) 839-5302, ext. 87991 for more information.

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

A record crowd enjoyed a resplendent day on the Grafton campus September 12, when the School of Veterinary Medicine hosted its 15th annual Open House.

Nearly 6,000 people took in the dog obedience and police and assistance canine demonstrations, the New England Miniature Horse Society and USDA Beagle Brigade shows; watched birds of prey and toured the veterinary hospitals.

In addition, the school held its 13th annual Veterinary Comeback, a celebration of reunion classes. That event also featured record numbers of returning alums, including 41 percent of the 15th reunion class, V83.

During the Veterinary Alumni Association's annual meeting, Dr. Steven Rowell, V83, director of the Tufts Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, received the second annual Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Kids check out one of the participants in the New England Miniature Horse Society show.



Putting a pup through its paces during the dog agility demonstration.



Brittney Poidven makes an equine acquaintance.

Photos by Mark Morelli

FILLING A CRITICAL NEED

by Frederick Kalil



*Demanding hours,
heroic efforts,
but saving lives
is worth it*

A bowl of dog biscuits welcomes incoming patients at the hospital registration desk. Otherwise, the clean and spacious check-in area resembles that at any of the major hospitals in the Boston area.

In the first minutes following arrival, other details begin to register. The desk is impressively well-staffed. And although emergency room areas are often a picture of chaos, the hum of activity with owners and animals passing back and forth is orderly and calm. A client is showing photos to one of the doctors. One of the veterinarians is standing and conferring with an animal's owner, nodding. Listening.

Continued on page 6

Dr. Maureen McMichael comforts a 12-year-old collie that was hit by a car.

Photos by Mark Morelli

At daily rounds, Dr. Nishi Dhupa and residents exchange up-to-the-minute information on critical cases.



Emergency care specialists reach out to surrounding communities

"With four board-certified critical care specialists out of a total of less than 75 in the United States, Tufts can boast the strongest representation of the field on its faculty."

Dean Philip C. Kosch

Continued from page 5

That first impression on an initial visit to the ER at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals at Tufts probably would be enough to forestall much of the anxiety and fear animal owners may anticipate in what is usually a stressful situation. And the level of expertise offered there extends beyond the high level of achievement represented by the accomplished experts on staff. State-of-the-art facilities, leading-edge technology and pioneering training programs put Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine at the forefront of emergency and critical care veterinary medicine.

One of only five such formal programs in the country, emergency and critical care training at Tufts has lots to offer students who want to pursue this specialty. "We're particularly proud of this program," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of the veterinary school. "With four board-certified critical care specialists out of a total of less than 75 in the United States, Tufts can boast the strongest

representation of the field on its faculty," he said.

The number of residents has tripled in the past three years, according to Dr. Nishi Dhupa, a clinical faculty member who, with other specialists in emergency and critical care, supervises the residents. The program is now the largest in the country.

"It's a great place to gain experience due to the heavy case load, which offers plenty of opportunities for both practical and theoretical training," Dhupa said. A textbook on emergency medicine co-edited by the faculty's four board-certified specialists is due out next year.

As the residency program in critical care has grown in response to the demand for specialist training, links have been established with other animal hospitals in western Massachusetts (Boston Road Animal Hospital in Springfield) and Rhode Island (Warwick Animal Hospital). As a result, Dhupa said, residents get to work in a private practice environment while continuing their education, and the participating off-site



A canine patient receives a shave from senior tech Valerie Kouloyan.

practices are able to upgrade their level of care with the advantages offered by a liaison with Tufts.

The outreach is part of the school's mission of service through increased public interaction, bringing high-quality care and specialized expertise into outlying communities, Dhupa said.

The veterinary school's recent acquisition of a practice in Walpole, Mass., for use as a satellite location can be ascribed to the growth of the critical care program, Kosch said. "The next step is to think about providing better accessibility [to care] for animals in other service areas," he said. "As our residency programs have shown, we can provide front-line experience out in a community setting."

Dr. Erika Zsombor-Murray is involved in one of the alternate-track residencies, spending half her time in Springfield and half her time at Tufts.

"Alternating locations on a monthly basis allows you to stay in touch with the intensive learning environment at Tufts while gaining experience with more routine occurrences off site," she said. Practicing outside the school offers other opportunities, she added, such as contributing on case consultations, providing training to interns and taking over hospital operations on weekends. "In a regular practice, we encounter first hand some of the typical stumbling blocks and limitations and learn what can be practically achieved," she said.

About 25 animals are admitted to the Foster Hospital's emergency room each day. Much like a human patient, an animal being admitted in the emergency room first undergoes triage for immediate intervention that addresses the crisis at hand. A determination is made whether there is a life-threatening situation before the animal is transferred to

Continued on page 8

When it's a matter of life or death, technicians can make the difference

Before a bystander can figure out what's happening, a team of specialists has moved into position to begin the procedure. The diagnostic test being performed is a bone marrow aspiration.

The technician who assists the residents is at the end of a back-to-back shift — a situation that can occur in this profession. It's a pretty good indicator of the level of dedication required from people who have chosen to be technicians in this demanding field.



Valerie Kouloyan, senior technician

"Every cage is filled; the volume of traffic is very high; the pace is intense," said Valerie Kouloyan, senior technician at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals. "When I hire someone, I tell them it's relentless — physically and mentally exhausting," she said.

"If an animal suddenly goes into [cardiac] arrest and has to be brought back to life, it all happens in the middle of this extremely busy environment," Kouloyan said. "But there's nothing like it. The rewards are tenfold. You know how serious the situation is for these animals, but there's a whole team working with you toward the same goal, and the successes are exhilarating."

In addition to hiring the staff technicians, Kouloyan is responsible for supervising and teaching them. "Enthusiasm and dedication count for a lot," she said. "The rest is training."

But the technicians must be prepared for anything that could occur in a walk-in emergency situation, she said. Training in standard procedures such as venopuncture and catheter placement are only part of the story, explained Kouloyan, adding that doctors depend on the technicians for status information and to catch problems before they arise.

In a typical procedure, the head technician will call out what they'll do, and all the participants remain closely keyed in to one another. Because everyone knows who's doing what, Kouloyan said, efforts can be redistributed accordingly if a patient's status fluctuates. It's all further evidence of the collaborative, highly organized activity that is inherent in the way things function here in the ICU.

Frederick Kalil

Continued from page 7

the intensive care unit or prepared for surgery.

"Animals treated at Tufts benefit from point-of-care testing equipment and diagnostic procedures that produce nearly immediate results," Dhupa said. "The capability to



With fourth-year students Steven Cole and Christina Barcus, Dr. Erika Zsombor-Murray, left, performs a chest tap to relieve a keeshond's compromised breathing.

quickly take a blood gas reading, for example, can often make the difference in what could be a life-or-death situation."

Once the animal is stabilized, owners have the option to transfer their animals back to their own veterinarians, but those that need extra attention remain at Tufts.

In one room, a 10-year-old keeshond suffering from labored breathing waits on an examination table while one of the residents makes preparations to begin a chest tap. The dog is a return patient with a history of pericardial disease resulting from being struck by a car. A technician and a student assist during the procedure, one holding the animal gently in place, the other soothing and reassuring it. Once the pressure is relieved by removing the fluid in the chest cavity that is causing the problem, the dog is scheduled for follow-up diagnostics to rule out other possible contributing factors.

"The ability to perform highly developed techniques for oxygen

therapy, blood transfusions, mechanical ventilation and peritoneal dialysis sets Tufts apart from many facilities of its kind," said Dhupa. Contributing in great part to the quality of care is the benefit of access to the school's specialists in oncology, ophthalmology, neurology, surgery and internal medicine.

All Tufts veterinary students must spend time working in the ER/ICU as part of their core rotations. Steven Cole, V99, confirmed that the high case load guarantees exposure to a large variety of clinical experience. "This is the most exciting area, and especially rewarding in critical cases when the steps you take save the life of an animal. It also allows the opportunity to follow through with a case over a relatively short period of time," he said.

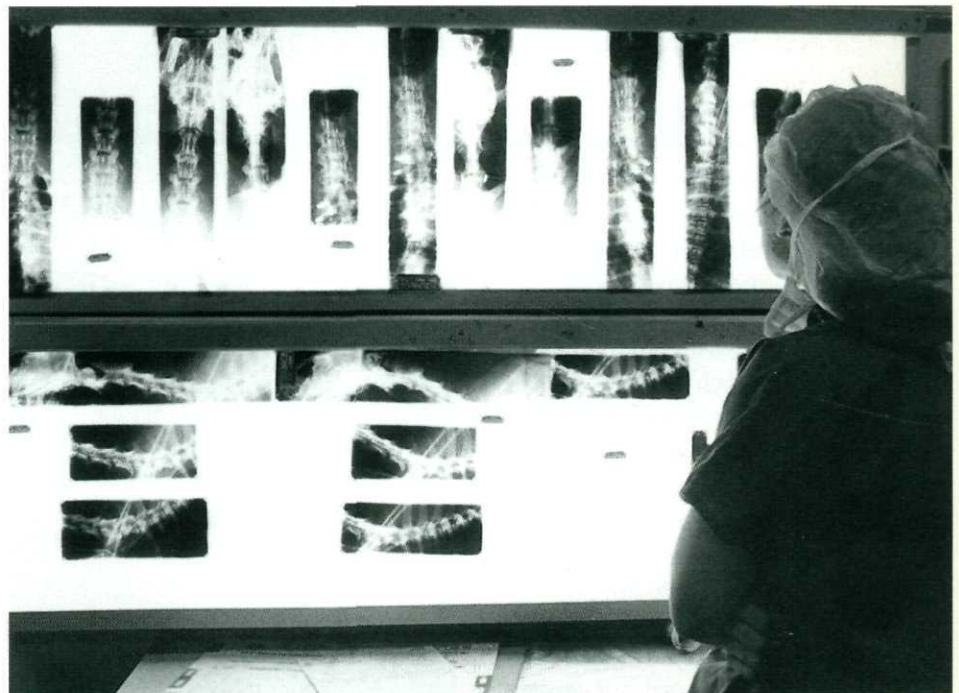
During evaluation and treatment, a constant exchange of information takes place, benefiting both the students who are assisting and the patient receiving the attention. The ongoing interaction with the residents offers a dynamic learning environment that creates popular and desirable training positions,

Cole said.

The 24-hour emergency service at the Foster Hospital on the veterinary school's North Grafton campus handles referrals from private veterinary practices throughout New England, filling an especially urgent need on weekends and holidays when other options for emergency care are limited. Recently completed renovations have allowed the emergency room to move out of the intensive care unit into a larger area, providing increased space to accommodate expanding needs.

"Animals treated at Tufts benefit from point-of-care testing equipment and diagnostic procedures that produce nearly immediate results."

Dr. Nishi Dhupa



Evaluation of radiographs reveals factors that will determine treatment options.

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Tufts Tomorrow Campaign Donors

Thank you to all of the alumni/ae, parents, clients and friends who generously committed more than \$7 million in gifts and pledges to Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in the 1997-98 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998. Your gifts enhanced the school's endowment, allowed for the purchase of new equipment at the Foster Hospital for Small Animals, supported the renovation of equine facilities, sponsored studies pertaining to environmental threats to animal and human health, boosted resources for student financial aid and generally strengthened the School of Veterinary Medicine's budget and programs. We regret that space limits our ability to list all donors; please know that every gift, regardless of its size, is greatly appreciated and contributes to the overall achievement of our *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign.

This year's fund-raising success is a testament to the energy and commitment of our volunteer chairs. Special thanks go to Dr. Henry L. Foster, trustee, veterinary overseer and chair of the *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign for the veterinary school; Agnes Varis, veterinary overseer and Tufts Veterinary Fund chair; Mary Jo and Edward Maier, V98P, Parents Fund chairs; and Dr. Wendy Emerson, V85, Alumni/ae Fund chair. And, welcome to Susan and Robert Yurkus, V99P, who are assuming the chairmanship of the Parents Fund for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

If you are interested in learning more about the *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign, please contact:

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(508) 839-7907
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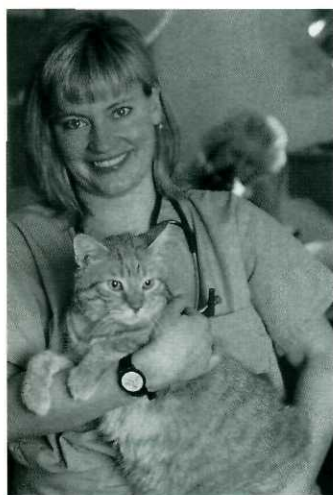
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Key to Abbreviations

- A** Alumnus, College of Liberal Arts
- AP** Parent/s, College of Liberal Arts
- G** Alumna/us, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- H** Honorary Degree Recipient
- J** Alumna, Jackson College
- JP** Parent/s, Jackson College
- K** Dental Certificate Recipient
- M** Alumna/us, School of Medicine
- N** Alumna/us, School of Nutrition Science & Policy
- V** Alumna/us, School of Veterinary Medicine
- VI** Veterinary Internship Certificate
- VP** Parent/s, School of Veterinary Medicine
- VR** Veterinary Residency Certificate
- VV** Alumna/us, Middlesex University School of Veterinary Medicine

P H O T O

FINISH



Photo by Michael Lutch

WET TOO, BRUTUS?

Brutus, the Saint Bernard, soaks up the attention he's getting from students at the School of Veterinary Medicine, who are toweling him down during their fifth annual dog wash on the Boston Common.

The dog-washers, all members of the Class of 2002, from left, are Yoanna Maitre, Rebecca McConochie, Erin Bridgeford, Richelle Berard, Carissa Bielamowicz, Linda Siperstein and Kimberly Barcus. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the Iams Co., benefit Tufts' Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Veterinary World

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