

Veterinary World

FALL 1997



Conservation Medicine

PIONEERING PROGRAM MAKES
THE WORLD A CLASSROOM

by Jim Grisanzio

In response to the need for veterinarians to take on ever-expanding roles in society, Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and Wildlife Preservation Trust International have created a program that will train the next generation of health-care and biomedical professionals in an entirely new field: conservation medicine.

The new Center for Conservation Medicine has been established in collaboration with Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment.

(See CONSERVATION, page 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE



DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch

OUR THRIVING RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

The teaching, service and research we are engaged in at the School of Veterinary Medicine are all important in fulfilling our mission. The varied service programs, especially those delivered by the hospitals, clinics and diagnostic laboratory, represent a significant contribution to our patients, clients and referring veterinarians. Our teaching programs contribute to the education of the next generation of veterinarians and biomedical scientists. However, the research we conduct has the potential to have the greatest impact because our scholarly endeavors today will ensure that veterinary medicine will continue to be a vibrant field tomorrow.

Research is central to the work of a university – not just the outcomes, as significant as they may be – but the process itself, and especially the passion that gives meaning to the effort. Research is at the heart of academic life because it enhances the faculty's command of and currency in their fields of expertise. I firmly believe that teaching and research are essential companions underlying scholarship. Our school is, first and foremost, a place of scholarship.

One of the things that continues to impress me about Tufts is the intellectual vitality of the faculty and students. We have developed seven major investigational programs: infectious diseases, animal biotechnology and reproductive biology, bone disease and orthopedics, neuroscience and behavior, oncology, hepatic and gastrointestinal diseases and international and wildlife medicine.

This issue of *Veterinary World* contains a special section on research that provides you with a glimpse of some of the exceptional work being done in our laboratories. In a future issue, we will profile the work of the infectious disease investigational group led by Dr. Saul Tzipori. Dr. Tzipori's group is currently ranked as the top-funded program in the entire university.

This kind of top-flight research has contributed immensely to the growing importance of veterinary medicine and science in our society and has helped position Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine among the top tier of veterinary institutions.

Our thriving research enterprise also includes our students. Since 1990, more than 115 of our students have received National Institutes of Health stipends to work with faculty in the pursuit of novel discovery. Since the inception of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Veterinary Student Research Fellowship national competition, our students have received 25 percent of all awards (the maximum allowed for any one veterinary school). Four of our graduates have received Fulbright Fellowships.

Our school thrives because we continue to think about and articulate a vision for what this field of veterinary medicine might look like well into the future. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Center for Conservation Medicine, made possible through major private foundation support. The center will combine the talents of two of our signature programs – international veterinary medicine and wildlife medicine.

The intellectual vitality of our school is palpable. Our faculty and students are exceptionally talented, self-determining, self-reliant and self-confident. I'm honored to serve as their dean.

DOUBLE HONORS



Photo by Chris Christo

Dr. James Ross, chair of veterinary clinical sciences at the School of Veterinary Medicine, has received two prestigious awards.

The American Association of Veterinary Clinicians in May presented Ross with its Faculty Achievement Award in recognition of his excellence in research, teaching and clinical practice. Ross was president of the group from 1994-95.

Ross was also the first individual from the School of Veterinary Medicine to receive Tufts University's Distinguished Professor award from the university's Board of Trustees. He received the award at commencement.

"I'm very honored. It's always humbling to be recognized by one's peers," Ross said.

On the cover:

Dr. Mark Pokras, director of Tufts' Wildlife Clinic, and Hillary Stern, a veterinary student on an externship from the University of California at Davis, examine a bald eagle before its test flight on Tufts' North Grafton campus. The eagle was operated on for a broken wing and released in Vermont in August.

Photo by Richard Howard

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

Veterinary World

Fall 1997

Executive Editor Dr. Philip C. Kosch, Dean,
School of Veterinary Medicine

Editor Jim Grisanzio

Managing Editor Karen Bailey

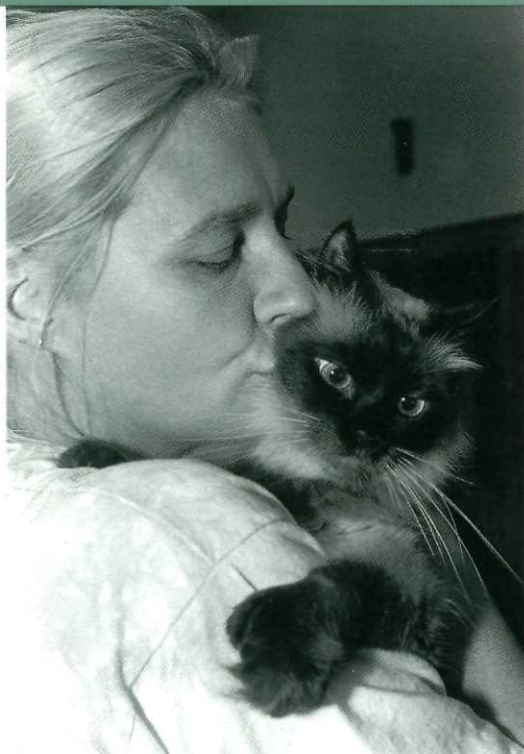
Editorial Adviser Shelley Rodman, Director,
Veterinary Development

Contributors Deborah Halber, John LoDico

Art Director Kitty Gormley

Graphic Designer Ann Boyajian

Veterinary World is published three times a year as a progress report of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, 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. Or e-mail us at JGrisanzio@Infonet.Tufts.Edu.



Sharon Clow, a technician in Tufts' Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals, comforts a cat in for treatment.

Photo by Bob Brown

You've just served up your cat's favorite meal. Your feline friend sniffs the bowl and looks up with a forlorn expression as if to say, "You expect me to eat this?" Is your cat just being finicky? Or does it have a more serious problem? And what should you do about it?

If your cat seems healthy and eats heartily most of the time, an occasional skipped meal is probably nothing to worry about, according to *Catnip*, a newsletter published by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. But if your cat has stopped eating for more than a day, you should be concerned. Lack of appetite, or anorexia, can quickly endanger your cat's health. Cats are opportunistic carnivores specializing in mouse-sized prey and are geared to getting energy from several small high-protein meals each day.

Even a cat that hasn't skipped meals may suffer from food deprivation. "Sometimes, there's just a subtle drop off over time in the amount a cat eats," said Dr. Lisa Freeman, assistant professor of medicine at Tufts.

A cat may lose its appetite for many reasons. "Very often, anorexia is a sign of disease," Freeman said. Ailments that cause pain or nausea or interfere with a cat's sense of smell may make the animal lose interest in food. And some diseases like cancer and heart disease can trigger the production of cytokines — hormone-like substances that suppress appetite.

Cats also may boycott their kibble because of stress. "None of us likes to eat if we are really anxious," said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, director of Tufts' Animal Behavior Clinic. Cats may develop stress-related appetite loss following the arrival of a new animal or person in the house, the loss of a feline or human companion or a move to a new home.

When a cat isn't eating enough, its body suffers an energy crisis and begins to break down its own tissue — especially its fat-storing (adipose) tissue — which can cause serious problems.

Under normal circumstances, a small amount of fat circulates in a cat's blood. The animal's liver absorbs this fat and converts it into other substances the body uses. But when too much adipose tissue breaks down, large amounts of fat spill into the blood, causing liver cells to become crammed with fat, a potentially fatal condition called hepatic lipidosis. Once hepatic lipidosis sets in, a cat's liver cannot properly clean the blood, leading to jaundice and neurological disorders.

Some cats can be cured if they can be made to eat again. Once the cat's body stops breaking down its own tissue, the liver can begin processing stored fat and return to normal functioning.

For *Catnip* subscription information, call (800) 829-0926.

Center for Animals undergoes changes

Students enrolled in the master of science in animals and public policy degree program at the veterinary school are in store for a changing — and rapidly expanding — program.

Dr. Andrew Rowan has stepped down as director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy, which administers the one-year master's program, but will continue as an adjunct professor and senior fellow. Rowan took over as senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) September 1, overseeing the society's projects in Africa as well as developing educational programs in Europe and the United States.

"I have spent 15 exciting years here at the veterinary school," Rowan said. "It has been a rewarding challenge to establish the Center for Animals and Public Policy, to develop the master's degree program and to be a part of the building of a wonderful veterinary school."

Dr. Gary Patronek, a veterinary epidemiologist and expert in companion animal demographics, animal control, rabies policies and animal neglect issues, will serve as interim director of the center for 1997-98.

"This is certainly a great opportunity for Andrew," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. "He's truly an international expert in his field, and we wish him well. But this isn't goodbye. It's just a change, and it's win-win for everyone because he'll still be involved with Tufts, and he'll be an important resource for our students while he is with HSUS."

The center, a think-tank that guides the national debate on the ethical treatment of animals, is also developing a visiting scholars program to draw experts in psychology, philosophy, wildlife and human-animal issues. Dr. Franklin M. Loew, former veterinary dean at Tufts and Cornell, has been named a senior fellow.

(Continued from page 1)

"Environmental issues are becoming more important world-wide, and animal health issues are undeniably relevant to biodiversity and conservation," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of Tufts' veterinary school. "This center is a model educational program that will address the notion that veterinarians are needed on the teams working to protect endangered species globally," he said.

Applying an interdisciplinary approach to education and research,

"When our students and faculty travel overseas, they quickly realize the diverse issues that need to be addressed ... Veterinarians can offer a fresh perspective on these challenges."

— Dr. David Sherman

the center will bring together veterinarians, conservation biologists and physicians to address global biodiversity, emerging infectious diseases, general ecosystem health and to educate students in conservation medicine.

"This is truly a collaborative effort among three leading institutions and an excellent extension of the pioneering work that Tufts' wildlife, international veterinary medicine and public policy programs have been doing for a decade," Kosch said.

The Center for Conservation Medicine has been funded with an \$825,000 grant from the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation in Denmark that will cover start-up costs and research and education programs over the next three years.

To a large extent, Tufts veterinary students have played a pivotal part in the birth of the new interdisciplinary program because of their interest in two of the school's signature programs: wildlife and international veterinary medicine. The Tufts

Wildlife Clinic treats and rehabilitates wild animals native to North America, while the International Veterinary Medicine Program addresses livestock and wildlife health issues around the globe.

"The students kept coming to us saying that they were interested in both programs," said Dr. David Sherman, head of the section of International Veterinary Medicine at Tufts and co-director of the Center for Conservation Medicine. "When our students and faculty travel overseas, they quickly realize the diverse issues that need to be addressed. Issues of competition between livestock and wildlife and of local customs and international tourism are extremely complex. Veterinarians can offer a fresh perspective on these challenges," Sherman said.

It just so happens that Philadelphia-based Wildlife Preservation Trust International (WPTI) — with an extensive global network of scientists and 25 years' experience in hands-on conservation of endangered species — also recognized the need for more medical and veterinary expertise in the field.

"WPTI is a grassroots, applied science organization with an active, locally based field staff confronting urgent wildlife health issues," said Dr. Mary Pearl, executive director of WPTI and co-director of the Center for Conservation Medicine. "In recent years, we have noted an increase in emerging diseases, and we see the need for veterinarians and doctors to join our field scientists to confront the growing number of diseases that move among species in our most endangered ecosystems."

"The reason for our participating in this new consortium is that it is very much related to what we want to accomplish: to help people see themselves as an integral part of the environment and that their health is dependent on the health of other species — plants, animals and microorganisms," said Dr. Eric Chivian, director of the Center for



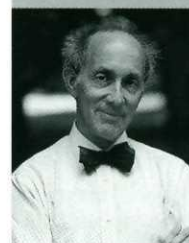
"Issues of competition between livestock and wildlife and of local customs and international tourism are extremely complex."

— Dr. David Sherman



"We see the need for veterinarians and doctors to join our field scientists to confront the growing number of diseases among species."

— Dr. Mary Pearl



"The reason for our participating in this new consortium is to help people see themselves as an integral part of the environment."

— Dr. Eric Chivian

Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School.

In the coming year, the center expects to send interdisciplinary teams of veterinarians, physicians, students and wildlife biologists to several countries, including India, Uganda and Brazil.

The program will enable Tufts veterinary students to become more formally involved in the emerging field that goes well beyond wildlife or international veterinary medicine and encompasses a broad, international ecosystem approach to nature protection.

"There's never been an attempt like this on an organized scale to really educate veterinary students to be more environmentally literate and active both in their communities and around the world," said Dr. Mark Pokras, director of Tufts' Wildlife Clinic. "It's very exciting, and the collaborative element with these two prestigious institutions will be fantastic. We'll be working with the very best in international wildlife conservation and human health policy."

The Importance of Scientific Inquiry

During its relatively brief history, Tufts' veterinary school has developed into a nationally recognized biomedical research institution. This kind of scientific inquiry enhances the educational opportunities for students, ensures that clinicians have access to the latest treatment options and contributes to the veterinary canon.

The school's 36 ongoing research projects attract more than \$6.1 million from a variety of sources.

Veterinary medicine at Tufts is grounded in a tradition of entrepreneurship, and the school's high-quality research enterprise is just one manifestation of that tradition. Faculty have been remarkably successful in establishing collaborative research projects with private industry. Forty percent of the school's research funding comes from these strategic partnerships.

In this special section on research, *Veterinary World* reports on the work of four of the school's leading investigators. Sixty-eight percent of the school's 75 full-time faculty members are actively engaged in sponsored research.

Developing new weapons to fight the war on cancer



Dr. Antony Moore and the Tufts oncology team are currently conducting research on new chemotherapy drugs, more effective ways to deliver the drugs and bone marrow transplants in dogs afflicted with cancer.

Photo by Bob Brown

Cancer. The word strikes fear into the hearts of animal owners. The disease can hit hard and kill painfully. But more and more pets will live longer and better thanks to leading-edge oncology research being done through Tufts' Harrington Oncology Program.

Dr. Antony Moore, associate professor of clinical sciences, and Tufts' oncology research team, have just completed a long-term study on canine lymphoma that demonstrated that a new chemotherapy drug, 9-amino camptothecin, proved effective in treating canine lymphoma with fewer of the side effects associated with powerful cancer-fighting drugs.

Pharmacia Upjohn sponsored the research. "This is important for animals and humans," Moore said. "As veterinarians, we can offer experimental medicines as a first-line treatment, whereas in human medicine, you have to exhaust other treatments first. We can offer clients and their pets new medicines free of charge because it's a study. The animals get treated, and we obtain valuable information about the treatment and the disease. And the pharmaceutical company gets valuable data for application in human cancer therapy."

Working with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Moore and his research team also are exploring innovations in bone marrow transplants to improve survival rates in dogs with lymphoma. And in another study, the team is collaborating with another pharmaceutical company to study new techniques to deliver chemotherapy drugs more effectively to dogs with metastatic lung cancer.

THE LOWLY CLAM MAY FORECAST POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS FOR US



by Deborah Halber

Unlike the oysters in "The Walrus and the Carpenter" who stroll along the beach, clams are mired in the muck. And if the water surrounding these living, breathing water filters is laden with PCBs and other noxious chemicals, the clams are, too.

Tufts University researcher Dr. Carol L. Reinisch is fighting to convince the research community and the public that when clams develop leukemia, people's health may be at risk. "Clams can become the canary in the mine" for aquatic pollution, she says. But a public used to hearing about risk scenarios played out in mice, rats, dogs and primates is hesitant to accept the invertebrate clam as a model for human health.

Reinisch, professor and chair of environmental and population health at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, will have an opportunity to put her theses to the test through a new collaboration with researchers in British Columbia. She's currently investigating the toll on animal health of PCBs, dioxins and other chemicals spewed from aluminum smelting plants and paper mills in the Canadian province. Soon, the collaborators — oncologists, epidemiologists and oceanographic chemists — may provide new data linking pollution that causes cancer in marine animals to human cancers.

When clusters of cancers turn up around sources of pollution, it is extremely difficult to prove that cancer is a direct result. People are

exposed to many carcinogens every day, and Reinisch points out that it takes "shoe-leather epidemiologists," who trek from home to home and gather detailed information on the health and lifestyles of inhabitants, to help prove whether the origin of the disease is environmental.

Among the goals of the British Columbia project is to see if the animals at the site that have leukemia are exposed to industrial wastes. Even though clams have unsophisticated immune systems and a clear substance called hemolymph instead of blood, Reinisch is exploring whether the same mechanism that triggers the disease in clams may also occur in humans.

Clams also provide an alternative research model to vertebrates. "If you can use alternative models, you can save thousands of vertebrate animal lives," she said. And clams make ideal research subjects. "We get results that are broadly applicable in medicine," said Reinisch, who has a laboratory at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

Using sea creatures to study human health is not new. Toadfish are used in diabetes research; lobsters are injected with neurotransmitters to study aggression, and the squid's giant nerve axon is ideal for neuroscientists seeking to shed light on human nerve physiology. But few, if any, before Reinisch have proposed using the clam as a model for human health. "This is not mainstream research," she said. "This little lab has caused a lot of controversy. You raise the stakes when you start talking cancer."

In 1984, Reinisch's study of wild populations of soft-shelled clams in New Bedford harbor broke new ground when she uncovered a high rate of tumors and disease. The clams' leukemia, she said, may have been accelerated by the high levels of PCBs, heavy metals and other industrial by-products in the harbor.



Carol L. Reinisch, who grew up on Long Island, says she has been interested in disease since volunteering at hospitals as a teenager. By nature a risk-taker, Reinisch pursued a scientific career with no female role models and by persevering through graduate and postgraduate programs where she felt everyone else was "a hare" while she was "the tortoise."

Photos by Mark Morelli

(People need not worry about eating contaminated steamers. New Bedford harbor has been closed to commercial and recreational shell-fishing for years.)

Unlike other marine life, clams cannot swim or crawl away from toxic waters. "As estuarine filter-feeders, clams are chronically exposed to and concentrate numerous environmental pollutants . . . Previous research has shown a correlation between environmental pollution and prevalence of disease. Thus, PCBs or other contaminants may have a crucial role as tumor promoters as cancer develops," Reinisch and her colleagues wrote in a recent paper for *Experimental Cell Research*.

"How do you monitor the health of the planet?" Reinisch asks. One way, she says, is to pick multiple locales around the world and monitor the health of the organisms that inhabit them.

Veterinary research is a career goal



Cynthia R. Smith is attempting to determine how environmental contaminants affect the growth of the nervous system.

Photo by Mark Morelli

Cynthia R. Smith was a student at Tufts' veterinary school for only two months when she heard a lecture by Dr. Carol Reinisch.

"All of her interests — aquatic medicine, environmental toxicology, cancer biology — matched mine," Smith said, sitting in Reinisch's bedroom-sized laboratory in the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

Now in her third year of what will be a seven-year quest for a combined D.V.M./Ph.D. degree, Smith has completed her second summer in the tiny lab with the dramatic view of the Hole — the body of water for which the town Woods Hole is named.

Smith, V99, is working on a thesis to study the impact of pollutants on neurological development. She is using the embryos of hard-shelled clams as experimental models — exposing each to PCBs in "environmentally relevant" doses that they may be exposed to in nature — to see how environmental contaminants affect the growth of the nervous system.

Using a special microscope that allows her to view a three-dimensional image of a clam embryo, Smith hopes her research may shed light on another recent study that showed that children who had been exposed to PCBs before they were born may suffer from learning disabilities.

Smith, who has earned prestigious grants and awards before she even has a graduate degree, has the relatively rare career goal of becoming a research veterinarian. She studied biomedical science as an undergraduate, but always brought her research interests back to the subject that most fascinated her while growing up near the Gulf of Mexico in Seabrook, Texas — the sea.

Using these oversized clams as a model for studying human health is not only environmentally conscious (two clams yield one million embryos), it makes sense. "Why not study the animals instead of a water sample?" she said. "Clams have the same neurochemical components as humans, therefore, they can be used to study basic neurological mechanisms."

Smith has received a Sweet Water Trust grant, a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation grant, a National Institutes of Health training grant and a student travel grant to present her work at the annual meeting of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Health in the Netherlands in May 1997.

THE BIOLOGY OF HORMONES AND MOTHERHOOD



Dr. Robert Bridges studies maternal behavior.

Photo by Richard Howard

How does a new mother know how and when to take care of her young? In part, the answer may lie within the powerful hormones that flood her body during pregnancy.

Researchers have found evidence that a developing fetus, whether human or animal, is responsible for sending a biological signal to the mother that prepares her to be "maternal" after she gives birth.

"Scientists really haven't focused on the contributions of the fetus and the placenta and the endocrine signals that bring about the establishment of maternal behavior," said Dr. Robert Bridges, professor of biomedical sciences and assistant dean for research at Tufts' veterinary school.

Studying the role of hormones in maternal behavior has implications for both human and veterinary medicine, Bridges said. "With a better understanding of these endocrine processes and how they relate to early maternal behavior, we can perhaps more effectively treat conditions such as postpartum depression," he said. "And in animals, this knowledge could lead to more effective breeding practices in farm animals and an improvement in litter survival."

"A gradual priming of the brain occurs in the female as a result of her exposure to what scientists call a 'cocktail of hormones' during pregnancy," said Bridges. He administered hormones to female rats that had never given birth. "Once we gave them the hormones, the rats started to pick up babies, bring them back to the nest, crouch over them and feed them," he said. "This is clear maternal behavior induced by the presence of the hormones."

Bridges' study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

New stabilizer mends broken bones

When Dr. Karl Kraus gets mad, he doesn't get even. He invents.

A veterinary orthopedic surgeon with expertise in biomedical engineering, Kraus has developed an external fixator that stabilizes shattered or broken bones faster and more efficiently than the devices currently available.

"I put fixator devices on dogs all the time to repair broken bones from gunshot injuries and car accidents, and the current system makes me mad," said Kraus, assistant professor of surgery at Tufts. "They are cumbersome to put on. Often, they loosen. They don't allow the soft tissue to heal as fast as it could. So one night on a plane returning from a conference in Florida a few years ago, I kept telling myself, 'There has to be a better way.'"

There was.

What Kraus decided he needed was a lightweight, sturdy, affordable external fixator system that would keep the bone stable while it healed, that would allow soft tissue to heal effectively and that veterinarians

could apply and remove easily in their offices and in the field. Kraus, who is also an adjunct associate professor of biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass., invented the device, called the Securos External Fixator System, with Harold Wotton, a biomedical engineering graduate from WPI.

Kraus estimates that his device could be used on more than 200,000 dogs each year in the United States alone. He also said that the device could help people who suffer massive injuries, including war injuries.

"As veterinarians, we are geared toward less-expensive, practical, lightweight devices that work effectively in the field," Kraus said. "It used to take me two hours in surgery to put on an external fixator. Now it takes me 40 minutes, and the animals heal faster. So for humans during war, when doctors don't have ultimate sterility or time, this new fixator could be very well-suited."



Dr. Karl Kraus shows his new external fixator on a Siberian husky just a day after surgery to repair a severely broken leg.

Photo by Bob Brown

DON'T DISCOUNT A RESEARCH CAREER, NOBEL LAUREATE TELLS GRADUATES



The Class of 1997

Seventy three new doctors of veterinary medicine heard keynote speaker and Nobel laureate Dr. Peter C. Doherty talk about the value of veterinarians and the important research they can contribute to society.

"Veterinary training is marvelous training through a very broad spectrum of human activities that are enormously significant to the world," Doherty told the veterinary school's 15th graduating class on May 18.

"As graduates, I think you will have a very significant role in society. The world is in front of you. There are many, many things you can do. Don't discount the possibility of doing biomedical research or research in some form as part of your career paths. Many veterinarians have made major impacts in research, and I think your training is very good for much of the research that needs to be done."

Doherty, an Australian-born veterinarian, was a co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology for his work on how the immune system recognizes virus-infected cells. He now holds the Michael F. Tamer Chair in Biomedical Research at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

The commencement ceremony was taped by the award-winning PBS television science series, "NOVA," which has spent the past year on the Grafton campus shooting a documentary on veterinary medicine. The one-hour program is scheduled to air this winter.

In his keynote speech, Nobel laureate Dr. Peter C. Doherty talks about the critical role veterinarians play in scientific inquiry and encourages students to consider a research career.



Marina W. Cesar, above, gives her last interview to NOVA, the award-winning PBS science series that followed several Tufts students through their fourth-year clinical rotations for a documentary on veterinary medicine scheduled to air this winter.



Photos by Chris Christo

More than \$7.5 million in gifts and pledges were made to the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in fiscal year 1997, which ended June 30. The school has raised \$29.6 million, or 72 percent, of its \$41 million *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign goal.

Tufts Tomorrow, the university's largest fund-raising effort ever, has raised \$228 million — 57 percent of the \$400 million campaign goal.

Among the year's highlights at the veterinary school were:

- The dedication of the Harrington Oncology Program, housed in a new wing of the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals.
- The securing of more than \$1 million for a new academic building, which will allow the entire veterinary student body to be located on the Grafton campus for the first time in school history. (First-year students currently take courses on Tufts' health sciences campus in Boston.)
- \$700,000 directed to endowed scholarships, including the creation of three new named scholarship funds.

If you want to know more about how *Tufts Tomorrow* is helping Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, contact Shelley Rodman, director of veterinary development, at (508) 839-7909, or e-mail her at: srodman@infonet.tufts.edu

A lifelong commitment to wildlife

Martha Briscoe's reasons for making a donation to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic are relatively simple: She has volunteered at the clinic and loves the people who staff it. And she always has had an interest in helping injured, orphaned and endangered wildlife.

"All my life I've been rescuing animals," said Briscoe, who lives in Concord, Mass. "When kids in the neighborhood would find injured birds and animals, they would bring them to me."

That was before the Wildlife Clinic or the veterinary school existed. At the time she first began caring for animals, veterinarians and veterinary science largely ignored the needs of wildlife. Veterinary training and practice focused instead on companion and farm animals.

"I think one of the reasons I like supporting Tufts is because the veterinary school is teaching students about wildlife," Briscoe said. "Because people have done so much damage to the natural world, we should take some responsibility and try to right the wrongs we have done. I think the Wildlife Clinic does that."

Briscoe is helping the Wildlife Clinic — and herself — by participating in a pooled income fund. She had one stock that she held for a long time and that "overwhelmed" her portfolio. If she had sold it, she would have had to pay a high capital gains tax. By placing her stock in a pooled income fund, which operates essentially like a mutual fund, Briscoe avoided capital gains tax and receives an income for life. Eventually the principal will go to the Wildlife Clinic.

Briscoe, who received a zoology degree from Smith College, serves as a visiting naturalist each year at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Echo Lake Camp on Mt. Desert Island in Maine. She also teaches children at Harvard University's Museum of Cultural and Natural History, as well as at the Massachusetts Audubon Society and in the Concord, Mass., school system.

The income she receives from the pooled income fund helps her maintain the lifestyle she is accustomed to now while assisting the School of Veterinary Medicine and the *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign later.

"It makes a tremendous amount of sense, and it helps out a place, the Wildlife Clinic, that I truly love and support," Briscoe said.

Harrington Oncology Program Dedicated



Dean Philip C. Kosch presents Sarah H. Williams, a veterinary overseer, with a plaque acknowledging her philanthropy that enabled the Harrington Oncology Program.

The program, named after Williams' family, was formally inaugurated on June 2. Tufts University President John DiBiaggio and Dr. Henry L. Foster, trustee and chairman of the School of Veterinary Medicine's Board of Overseers, also presided at the dedication of New England's most advanced center for veterinary oncology treatment and research.

Other philanthropists who supported the cancer treatment program include Dr. Foster and his wife, Lois, Sue and David Bloom, the Hurdle Hill Foundation, Newman's Own Inc., Susan and Peter Phippen and Siemens Medical Systems Inc.

Photo by J.D. Sloan

A love of beagles fuels her devotion to animal care



Helen Davenport and her beagle, Skip, on Cape Cod.

Photo by Barry Donahue

Helen Davenport has never visited Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, although she has an affinity for the institution just the same.

"I knew about what Tufts was doing through the regional press," said Davenport, who lives in North Eastham on Cape Cod. "And because I know that it is a relatively new school, I thought they could use some help."

Davenport, who is devoted to the beloved beagles she has raised through the years, decided the best way to support veterinary medicine at Tufts was to establish a charitable gift annuity, which pays her a guaranteed annual income for life.

Davenport is a registered nurse who received her B.S. degree from Syracuse and an M.P.H. from Yale. She joined the Army Nurse Corps during World War II, serving as first lieutenant in Florida at a "redistribution center" where the wounded from Europe were sent for treatment.

Davenport got her first beagle in 1948, but the animal died of distemper six months later. She admits that even though she ran baby clinics and treated horrible war injuries, she knew absolutely nothing about distemper and dogs. And the veterinarians at the time did not offer much help. So she began to study, which triggered her lifelong interest in dogs, especially beagles.

"I had a few of my dogs with me when we were visiting North Eastham in the late 1950s," Davenport recalled. "We were wandering around, and there was room for the dogs to run. So I bought some property there because the dogs liked it so much."

The recent sale of a second home in New Canaan, Conn., allowed Davenport to direct her philanthropy to Tufts. If

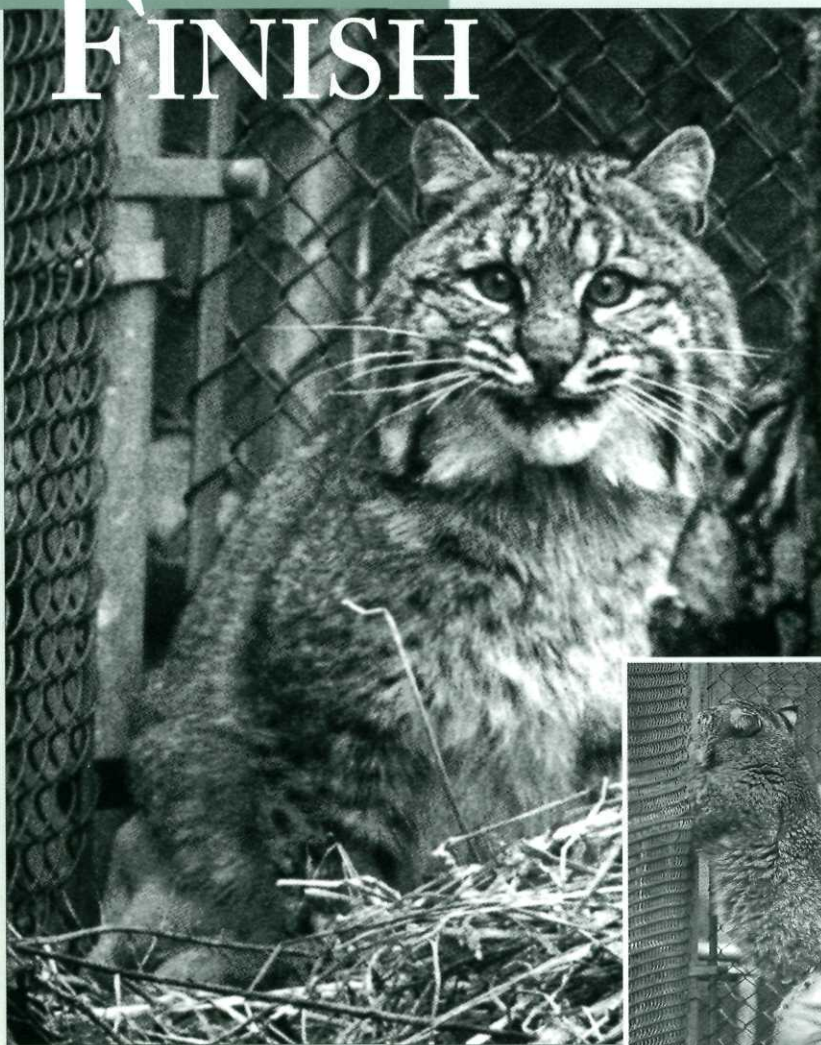
Davenport had taken the proceeds from that sale and put the money in the bank, she would have faced a capital gains tax that she called "horrendous." By placing the funds into a charitable gift annuity, she reduced her tax, receives an income throughout her life and will assist Tufts, which, ultimately, will receive the principal from the annuity.

By supporting the School of Veterinary Medicine, Helen Davenport is helping to educate a new generation of skilled veterinarians who are as committed as she is to the health and well-being of animals.

Tufts' Office of Estate and Gift Planning has a brochure describing pooled income funds, charitable gift annuities and other creative methods for supporting the School of Veterinary Medicine. To receive a copy and to get confidential information about gift planning options that provide tax and economic benefits to you, call (617) 627-3727, or toll free at 1-888-748-8387.

P H O T O

FINISH



READY TO HIT THE ROAD

A 25-pound bobcat peers from his pen at the New England Science Center in Worcester, Mass., where he recovered from extensive pelvic and dental surgery at Tufts' Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals. The stealthy cat was brought to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic last fall after it was hit by two cars in Lanesboro, Mass. After five



months of recuperation at the science center, the bobcat was released in Windsor, Mass.

Photos courtesy
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Veterinary World
Tufts University
School of Veterinary Medicine
200 Westboro Road
North Grafton, Massachusetts 01536

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NO. GRAFTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 9



Printed on recycled paper