

# Veterinary World

FALL 1996

ON THE FARM



*This is veterinary medicine practiced the old-fashioned way — on the road, down on the farm — but with a twist. These veterinarians are armed with the latest techniques and technology. And it all fits into the back of a van. See story on page 6.* Photo by Dietrich C. Gehring

## WHERE EAGLES DARE

### STATE PROGRAM IS HELPING THE ENDANGERED BIRDS THRIVE

The tree is 150 feet high and reaches out over the banks of the Connecticut River near West Springfield, Mass. It was going to be a challenge to get to this nest, where wildlife officials hoped they would find two healthy baby eagles to examine and band as part of the state's 15-year-old program to reintroduce the endangered species into Massachusetts.

Eagles were driven from the state earlier this century, primarily by habitat loss and alteration and by shooting. Then mid-century pesticides, especially DDT, further imperiled the population by thinning the eggshells of the birds' offspring.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) heads up the Bald Eagle Project in cooperation with other government agencies, companies and Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

This nest overlooking the Connecticut River is the state's newest. It houses the third generation of eagles since biologists began "hacking" the birds in 1982. Hacking involves taking baby eagles from where they thrive to where they are scarce in the hope that they will imprint on their new home and breed there. Most eagles return to within 200 miles of their birthplace to mate and nest. The program has worked exceptionally well in Massachusetts, which is now home to nine breeding pairs. As many as 50 eagles winter in the state. They are attracted to lush feeding grounds at the Quabbin Reservoir and along the Connecticut River.



*This four-week-old eagle chick represents the third generation of eagles born in Massachusetts as a result of the state's Bald Eagle Project, a 15-year-old program to reintroduce the endangered species.*

Photo by Mark Morelli

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# DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch

## HONORING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Let me just say that it's great to be at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. As dean, I have the privileged responsibility of serving one of the truly distinctive and leading veterinary schools in the world. I do not take this honor lightly.

I wish to express, on behalf of my wife and myself, our sincere gratitude to everyone for the warm and enthusiastic welcome we have received. We couldn't be happier to join the Tufts family. Our two cocker spaniels, Buffy and Daisey, wish to say thanks, too!

I was honored to attend this year's Dean's Graduation Dinner and the commencement ceremonies for the Class of 1996. Springtime in New England is really special, particularly after this past winter. (I vividly recall the three-and-a-half hour ride from Logan to Grafton during one of my search committee interviews last December!)

As I sat next to Trustee Dr. Henry L. Foster in front of the Jean Mayer Administration Building during commencement, my thoughts were about renewal in the life of the school that has come so far so quickly. I thought of Dean Frank Loew and the marvelous contributions he had made to make this such a special place. Interim Dean Sawkat Anwer handled his transitional leadership responsibilities with great skill and understanding.

The excitement in the faces of the class of V96 was matched by what I felt inside. Just as they commenced their veterinary careers, I began my first year as dean. I am excited about the opportunity to take on this challenging position. The school is maturing, and with everyone's help, we can reach our full potential to be an internationally distinctive veterinary school that is the first choice of both applicants and faculty.

I realize that I stand firmly on the shoulders of two former deans as well as of a group of pioneering faculty, staff and benefactors who have built this school. Many programs of excellence have been developed. Several of these are widely recognized as the leading programs in the nation. An exceptionally productive faculty and dedicated staff have made the difference here. I have never been around a better group of people. These talented folks work hard, work smart and work in the best interest of our students.

I am interested in meeting everyone who loves this school. I'm afraid that could take a while! I look forward to alumni events to learn of our graduates' unique perspectives on Tufts. I am anxious to get acquainted with the many friends of the school. Our most precious resource is, of course, our students. I am especially interested in working with each class to learn of their issues and to enhance the learning environment as much as possible. The same holds true for clinical residents and advanced degree students.

We are currently expanding the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals to house the Harrington Oncology Program. This facility will include a linear accelerator to treat deeply seated tumors with great precision. This, along with the addition of a radiation oncologist to our faculty, reflects how we are continuing to grow to better serve the needs of animals.

We are working hard to secure funding to construct additional teaching space to unify the professional degree program on our campus. Likewise, we are moving forward, in partnership with the town of Grafton, with the final planning for a research and development park on our campus. This opportunity has the potential to make the research infrastructure of this school unique. It will also allow our students to explore alternative career opportunities on our own campus.

I'm excited about the future of our school, and I hope to facilitate everyone's efforts in continuing to build this special place. I look forward to making many new friends in New England.

## McGrath named veterinary overseer

Dr. David J. McGrath III, V86, owner of and veterinary practitioner at four animal hospitals, has been appointed to Tufts' 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 president and Board of Trustees and to the school's dean.

McGrath received his D.V.M. degree from Tufts' veterinary school in 1986. He also earned an M.S. degree from Tufts' Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1983. His undergraduate degree is from Cornell.

McGrath is proprietor of the Wignall Animal Hospital in Dracut, Natick Animal Hospital in Natick, the Lowell Veterinary Clinic in Lowell, all in Massachusetts, and the Pelham Animal Hospital in Pelham, N.H.

He has served as alumni chair of the Tufts Veterinary Fund for the past two years, and he is a member of the school's giving club, the Cotton Tufts Society, and serves on the club's executive committee. McGrath's father, the late David J. McGrath Jr., also served as an overseer to the veterinary school.

## TUFTS UNIVERSITY Veterinary World

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# Interactive CD-ROMS harbinger a new age in veterinary education

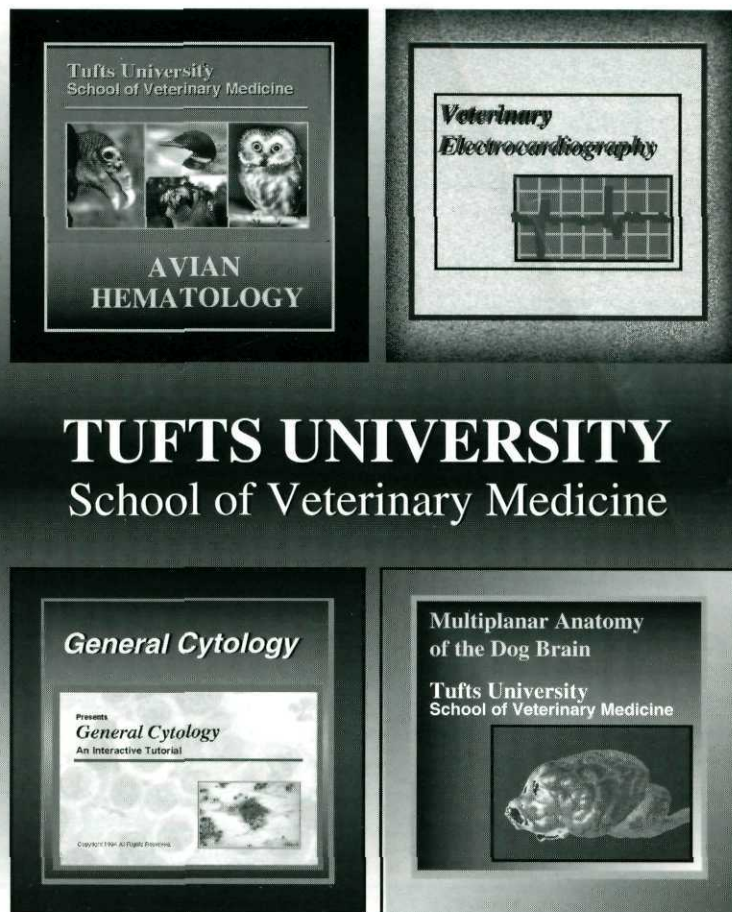
Computer technology is darting forward at ever increasing speeds, and Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine is right at the leading edge, using that technology to create sophisticated, interactive, multimedia CD-ROMs to help educate veterinary students.

"The way we are teaching students is changing. We are striving to make education more student-centered at Tufts. And one way to achieve that goal is to develop and use these CD-ROMs because they are interactive," said Dr. Anthony Schwartz, associate dean for academic affairs at the veterinary school. "In many disciplines, the students can extend and support their classroom learning with auto-tutorial CD-ROMs, going over the materials many times at their own pace, and testing themselves when they are done."

Multimedia technology will play a big part in the education of future veterinarians. "There are things that are best learned in lecture halls; others in labs; and others in small groups or with auto-tutorial CD-ROMs," Schwartz said. "This technology is part of the new paradigm of teaching that is going on all over the country. It's a revolution that we are going to take advantage of and help lead. And our students and faculty will benefit."

Some of the CD-ROMs are already being used by Tufts veterinary students in their neuroscience, cardiology, hematology and pathology classes. In the future, parts of many more courses will include at least some multimedia technology. Current Tufts CD-ROM titles include *Veterinary Electrocardiographic Interpretation*, *General Cytology*, *Avian Hematology*, *Multipplanar Anatomy of the Dog Brain* and *International Veterinary Medicine*. In production are CD-ROMs exploring ethics, cat behavior

## Interactive CD Rom Sampler



CD-ROM cover designs by Bob Brown

and a joint project with the University of Connecticut examining veterinary medicine on the farm.

At least five publishers have expressed an interest in marketing the Tufts CD-ROMs to other veterinary schools and to the estimated 55,000 practicing veterinarians in the United States.

"It's a great medium. It's perfect for education," said Dan Rizzo, multimedia software developer in the school's media services department. Rizzo volunteered his time during a career change two years ago and produced Tufts' first CD-ROM.

"He came in for free for a good six months and did all the programming for our first title, *General Cytology*," said Bob Brown, coordinator of the media services department. Rizzo has written the computer code for all the CD-ROMs. He also demonstrated the Tufts CD-ROMs at the American Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference, which took place in July in Louisville, Ky.

"We need to keep up with the technology," Rizzo said. "Right now, the best delivery vehicle is the CD-ROM, but what

we are really talking about is multimedia — photographs, sounds and video." Once the data-line access speeds are fast enough for most computer users, Brown and Rizzo say they would like to put some parts of the CD-ROMs on the World Wide Web so current and prospective veterinary students can access them.

"We aren't just turning pages on a computer here," said Dr. Karl Kraus, co-chair of the school's Committee on Instructional Technology, which is supervising the CD-ROM project. "If you need text, put it in a textbook. But so much of what we deal with in veterinary medicine you can't effectively put in a textbook. Our profession and its teaching is image- and sound-oriented; we have X-rays, slides, photographs, EKGs, ultrasounds, heart and lung sounds and videos of lameness exams. You just can't put all of that in a book. It's not the best way to deliver the content."

Jim Grisanzio

# BRIEFLY

## Continuing education

Upcoming continuing education programs at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine include:

- Acupuncture: Scientific Basis and Clinical Application for Small Animal and Equine Practitioners, Sunday, October 27, at the North Grafton campus
- Small Ruminant Practitioner Continuing Education Conference, Saturday, December 7, at the North Grafton campus

For information, call Janice Lennon, associate director of continuing education, at (508) 839-5302, ext. 4705.

## Students score with Dodge Foundation research grants

Nine Tufts veterinary students won summer research grants from the prestigious Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation this year — more than any other veterinary school. Students from all 31 veterinary schools in North America were eligible to apply for a limited number of grants from the foundation, which will offer the research grant competition annually.

"Tufts did remarkably well," said Dr. David Sherman, director of international veterinary medicine at Tufts.

"We always encourage our students to undertake grant-writing to raise funds for their field work."

Research areas pursued over the summer included international veterinary medicine and wildlife conservation (seven students), animals and public policy (one student) and small animal medicine (one student). The recipients of the \$5,000 grants are Christine Jost, V96; Melinda Franceschini and Christopher Whittier, both V97; and Lilan Basse, Jessica McCoy, Amy Alwood, Gail Renehan, Kari Pettit and Katherine Fernald, all V98.

## Tufts expands VETFAX

As veterinary medicine continues to grow and develop subspecialties, more and more practitioners — especially those practicing in remote areas — face difficult cases needing specialized knowledge for a proper diagnosis.

Now these veterinarians can quickly access the technical expertise and consultations they need by dialing a toll-free fax number for Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, which has expanded its VETFAX service to include more than 15 veterinary experts specializing in behavior, exotics, dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, cardiology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, emergency medicine and anesthesia.

VETFAX was created six years ago and was then the first veterinary diagnostic service using facsimile technology. Now the service is being expanded to meet veterinary medicine's ever-expanding demand for specialized knowledge.

"Veterinarians from around the world can — and do — tap into our expertise here at Tufts. We're just at the end of the fax line," said Dr. Mary Labato, director of VETFAX. "We've received faxes

from as far away as Alaska and all over the mainland United States. Internationally, we have received consult requests from Australia, Bermuda, the Virgin Islands and many European nations."

The philosophy behind VETFAX encourages veterinarians to handle many difficult cases at their clinics without having to refer their clients to specialists, which in many instances is impossible because of time, travel and financial constraints. The system benefits all involved. Veterinarians benefit because they retain a close relationship with their clients. The clients benefit because they get a highly specialized consultation at a greatly reduced cost. The animals benefit because they receive a more comprehensive evaluation when they have a difficult-to-diagnose condition.

Veterinarians interested in VETFAX can call (508) 839-5395 for an information packet, including consultation request forms. The consult forms for each specialty, along with several anatomical diagrams, can be copied and faxed.

If the request gets to Tufts by 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, a response will be generated by 11 (EST) the next morning. The service, however, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Responses generally take no longer than 24 hours. The fee for the consultation is \$30 and is paid by credit card.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SEPT. 7 OPEN HOUSE



Everyone has a chance to talk to the animals at the veterinary school's annual Open House.

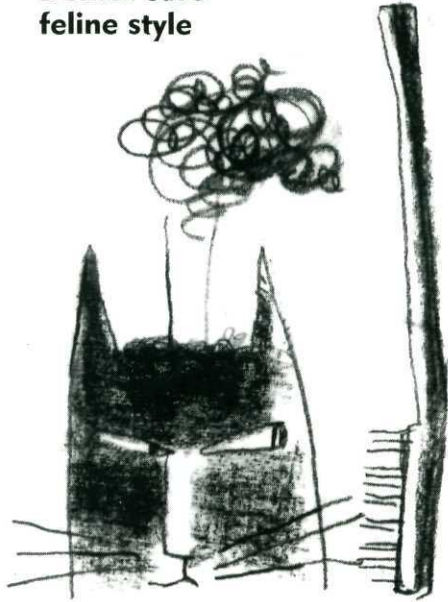
Tufts New England Veterinary Medical Center will host its 13th annual Open House on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the veterinary school campus, 200 Westboro Road (Route 30), North Grafton.

There will be animal health-care exhibits and demonstrations

on high-tech veterinary care in the Tufts animal hospitals as well as fun activities for the kids.

Open house is free, and will take place rain or shine. All are welcome, but please leave your pets at home. For more information, call (508) 839-5395, ext. 4515.

## Dental care — feline style



BOYAJIAN

Periodontal disease is the most common oral disease in cats. In fact, it's the most common disease of any kind in dogs and cats, according to *Catnip*, a newsletter published by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

"Periodontal disease is also the most overlooked disease," said Dr. Laura LeVan, a veterinarian who sees dental cases at Tufts. "Sometimes cats suffer with severe periodontal disease before anything is done about it."

Left untreated, periodontal disease only gets worse, eventually undermining your cat's health. "The mouth is said to be the most biologically active area of the body," LeVan said. Bacteria from a diseased mouth can affect the organs and nervous system. And some diseases of feline old age can be attributed to untreated oral disease. Human medicine has taught us that healthy mouths can help us live longer. "There's no reason to believe the same isn't also true for animals," LeVan said.

Because cats are not noted for their cooperation when it comes to mouth inspections, owners can easily miss the

early stages of oral disease, which can begin in cats as young as 2. Several signs — although not exclusive to oral disease — should alert you to the need for a thorough veterinary examination of your cat's mouth. Bad breath is a "red flag." Other indications are when your cat rejects crunchy food, avoids certain parts of its mouth when eating, paws at its mouth or drools.

Periodontal disease involves the tissue and structures that support the teeth — the gum, ligament

and the alveolar bone. The disease ranges in severity from inflammation of the gum (gingivitis) to ulceration of the gum and loss of supporting bone structure (periodontitis). Advanced periodontitis leads to tooth loss.

Gingivitis — the early stage of periodontal disease — is easy to spot. It appears as a red line of inflammation where the gum meets the tooth. This inflammation of the gum tissue is caused by deposits of plaque that build up on the surface of the tooth. As plaque builds up, it hardens into tartar and enlarges the pocket (sulcus) between the tooth and the gum. This enlarged sulcus traps debris, creating a fertile environment for bacteria and preventing saliva from washing out the sulcus. If gingivitis is detected early and treated, its effects are reversible.

Periodontitis — the advanced stage of periodontal disease — occurs when bacteria cause the gums to ulcerate. Eventually, the alveolar bone supporting the teeth begins to erode. Finally, erosion of the gum and alveolar bone advances to such a degree that the teeth fall out.

Plaque forms every six to eight hours, so merely rinsing your cat's mouth will not remove the build up. To effectively remove plaque, you need to brush your cat's teeth — preferably every day. While brushing takes discipline, it doesn't take much time — only 15 to 30 seconds. Though

most cats do not clamor to have their teeth brushed, most will tolerate it if you set up a routine and stick to it. Your veterinarian should examine your cat's gums and teeth at least once a year.

For information about subscribing to *Catnip*, call (800) 829-0926.

## TUFTS SURGEON HONORED IN BRITAIN

Dr. Michael Pavletic, professor and head of small animal surgery, received the prestigious Bourgelat International Award from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) for outstanding contributions to small animal practice. The award was presented to Pavletic this past spring at the BSAVA's annual meeting in Birmingham, England.

Pavletic's extensive contributions to plastic and reconstructive surgery and wound management were cited, including the development of

more than 40 original reconstructive surgical and stapling techniques. Over the past 16 years, he has published more than 100 scientific papers and textbook chapters on plastic and reconstructive surgery, wound management, surgical stapling and gastrointestinal surgery. Pavletic also has written and edited four textbooks on small animal surgery, including *The Atlas of Small Animal Reconstructive Surgery*, published in 1992 by J.B. Lippincott Co.



Dr. John R.S. Dalton, left, president of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, presents the Bourgelat Award citation and a engraved crystal decanter to Dr. Michael Pavletic, professor and head of small animal surgery at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Photo by Apollo

# On the Road Down on the Farm

THEY DIAGNOSE, VACCINATE, OPERATE AND EDUCATE — ALL FROM THE BACK OF A VAN

Every morning just after sunrise the students gather. They'll come to this office set on a farm in Woodstock, Conn., for the next four weeks to experience a full-service, veterinary ambulatory practice. They bring their stethoscopes, textbooks, coveralls and knee-high rubber boots. When you go to the farm at Woodstock, you don't forget your boots.

The Large Animal Ambulatory Clinic is a required rotation for fourth-year students at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. It also ranks as one of the more popular rotations among students because they are involved — elbow- and knee-deep — in hands-on techniques.

Some cases are scheduled a day in advance. Some are emergencies. Most clients call early in the morning to consult with one of the clinic's five faculty veterinarians — Drs. George Saperstein, David Matsas, Howard Levine, Kris Koss and Harold Hammerquist — and to schedule farm calls.

The faculty split up the students and brief them on the day's cases. Then they load the vans with supplies — everything from drugs and syringes for vaccinations, to scalpels, clamps and other tools for surgery, to modern, portable ultrasound machines for peeking inside just about any large animal that wanders their way.

On this day, Matsas and students Jennifer Johnson and Emily Girard take an ultrasound machine and head out to Fox Hill Farm, an equine breeding farm just over the border in Dudley, Mass.

Three retired racehorses, patients of Tufts' Large Animal Ambulatory Clinic, meander around a field at the Fox Hill Farm.



Jennifer Johnson injects an anesthetic into a cow in preparation for surgery to repair the animal's displaced abomasum, or fourth stomach.

Emily Girard uses hoof testers as part of a lameness exam to check for an abscess in the hoof of a racehorse.



First things first: Check the babies. There are eight foals; three are recovering from diarrhea. The students examine the foals; they are all doing well. Next Matsas pulls out the ultrasound machine and sets up outside the stalls of some pregnant mares. He needs to check the progress of their pregnancies. One of the mares is pregnant with twins — not a good sign because equine twins rarely mature to a healthy, event-free birth.

The ultrasound on the first mare brings good news. "It appears that the second embryo is reducing [no longer viable]," Matsas said.

*Dr. David Matsas, seated at right, analyzes the report from an ultrasound of a pregnant mare. Looking on, from left, are students Jennifer Johnson and Emily Girard and Fox Hill Farm manager Joe Giusti.*

*Below, Matsas instructs fourth-year students Emily Girard and Jennifer Johnson in how to explore for an abscess during a lameness exam, which takes place at the back of the van they use to travel from farm to farm.*

"Great news," said Joe Giusti, farm manager. "We don't want to lose the babies, and we don't want to abort if we don't have to."

Matsas and the students examine five more mares. All the pregnancies look good so far.

"I trust these guys from Tufts. And the students are great. They teach me something every time they come," Giusti said. "I've been working with them for three years now, and I can really depend on them. Even if it's Sunday, they come right over."



One racer on vacation from the track for a few weeks is going lame. Girard uses a hoof tester to check for an abscess, a common cause of lameness. "It's usually pretty easy, but sometimes they fight you," Girard said as she struggled to convince the three-year-old, 1,200-pound thoroughbred to stand still. The abscess is located and drained.

"She should feel much better now," Johnson said. "Even a tiny abscess can cause a lot of pain, so much so that a horse will not want to put its foot down."

The veterinary team gathers its equipment and heads for Fairholm Farm, a dairy farm in Woodstock. The patient, a 1,700-pound cow that Matsas and Girard examined last week, needs surgery for a displaced abomasum, or fourth stomach. Full of gas and out of its natural position, the stomach has risen to the top of the body cavity. The cow is losing weight, and her milk production is down. The condition is not uncommon and sometimes occurs after calving or when the animal is on certain feeds.

The surgical team will use sutures to pin the cow's abomasum to the floor of its body cavity. They rig makeshift lighting for the stall. During surgery, the cow is standing and fully conscious, but the surgical site is heavily anesthetized.

Girard places her stethoscope on the left side of the animal and taps. She listens for the high-pitched "ping" that will confirm the location of the stomach and that it is still full of gas. Johnson and Girard sterilize and prep the surgical site. Matsas guides both students through the surgery. The students need little coaching and quickly pick up the technique.

The surgery goes well. The team packs up and heads back to the Tufts clinic.

The van grows quiet as Matsas pulls into the clinic. Both students still have to drive about an hour to get home, and Matsas has to check and return messages and begin planning for tomorrow.

"Just about 12 hours," Matsas said. "It was a long but typical day today. It's great being on the road, at the farms and with the clients and students. Each day presents a new challenge. That's what I like about the job."

Jim Grisanzio



Photos by Dietrich C. Gehring



# COMMENCEMENT '96

## Veterinary school graduates 14th class

**“Y**ou have toiled much, and you have sacrificed many a thing to fulfill your dream, to become a member of a noble profession, a profession that seeks to help those who cannot speak to us,” interim dean Dr. M. Sawkat Anwer told the 75 members of the Class of '96 at Tufts veterinary school. “Now go out there and make a difference!” he added to the cheers of the several hundred students, friends and family members who attended the May 19 graduation.

The day was filled with fun, anticipation, tears and speeches encouraging the newly fledged veterinarians to keep growing and perfecting their talents, while always remembering where they learned the fine art and science of veterinary medicine. The school awarded 75 D.V.M. degrees, four certificates of internship and six certificates of residency.

Keynote speaker Dr. Lester M. Crawford, executive director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, talked about the rich history of veterinary medicine and about how the profession's leaders have contributed to the welfare not only of animals but of people.

“Veterinary medicine isn't just about distemper,” Crawford said. “It's also about public health and the environment, and



*Above, the veterinary school's Class of 1996. At right, keynote speaker, Dr. Lester M. Crawford, executive director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.*



perhaps most beautiful of all, the human-animal bond. Veterinary medicine can and does contribute to all categories of science and to all aspects of medicine.”



Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, associate professor of medicine, encouraged the graduates to explore the diversity of veterinary medicine. “The

wonderful thing about the veterinary profession is its variety. You don't like small animal medicine? Try large animal. Don't like in-house clinics? Do ambulatory. Want more challenging cases? Become a specialist. Don't want to talk to clients? Become a pathologist,” she said. “If you have a revelation that you don't really want to spend the rest of your life collecting elephant droppings in the Serengeti,” she continued, “you can become a meat inspector in Peoria. The possibilities are endless.”

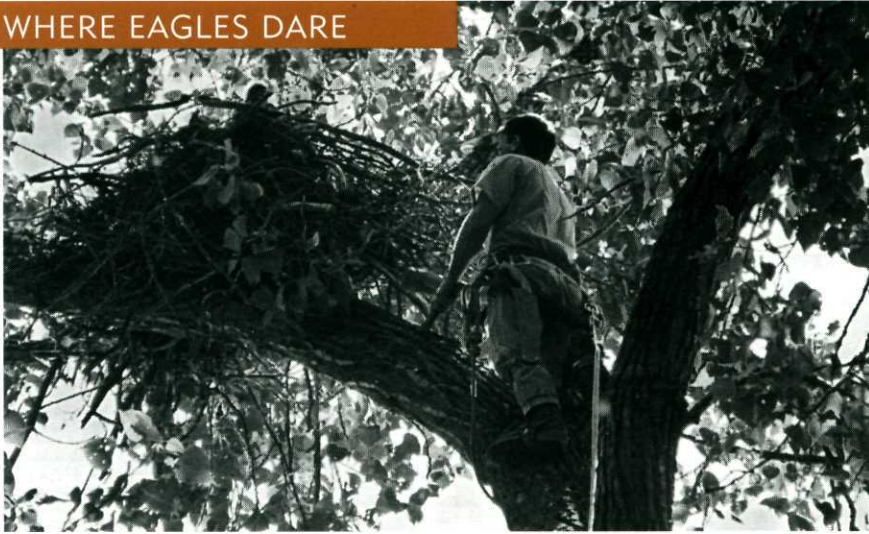
Other commencement speakers included Dr. Philip C. Kosch, then dean-designate; Dr. Henry L. Foster, trustee and chairman of the Board of Overseers to the veterinary school; and Marc Fine, V96.

*At left, the school's new dean, Dr. Philip C. Kosch. Above, student speaker Marc Fine.*



Photos by Chris Christo





Tom Ricardi Jr. stands face to face with an eagle chick, one of two in this nest.

Photos by Mark Morelli

(Continued from page 1)

As expert climber Tom Ricardi Jr. — on loan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — gets ready to scale the tree, an eagle, probably the mother, ruffles some branches above. She chirps rapidly and loudly and darts through the treetops from branch to branch. She circles and finally settles on an adjacent branch to watch Ricardi climb the tree. Eagles won't attack when humans take their babies.

It takes a half-hour to reach the nest. As the babies are lowered in sacks to the ground, Dianne Davis, Tufts senior wildlife technician, and third-year veterinary student Kate Bergen set up their diagnostic tools in a clearing. They will examine the birds and take blood and feather samples for environmental contaminant and genetic studies that are being done at Tufts by Dr. Mark Pokras, director of the Wildlife Clinic, and genetics researcher Dr. Acacia Alcivar-Warren.

One at a time, the eaglets are carefully lowered. Bill Davis, a wildlife biologist and leader of the Bald Eagle Project for the MDFW, weighs them in their sacks.

Dianne Davis, Bill's wife, and Bergen begin taking vital signs and setting up to draw blood. "Everything looks good," Bergen says. "Their hearts sound strong, and they seem well fed." Davis agrees.

The Davises next band both birds so they can be identified in the future. But just as Dianne Davis was about to draw blood, Ricardi yells down from the treetop: "You are going to have to hurry down there." He's getting tired.

Bill Davis immediately cancels the blood draw, fearing that Ricardi's legs may be cramping up. The blood draw

would take another 15 minutes, too long to risk an accident.

Dianne Davis and Bergen quickly take some feather samples, and the birds are on their way back home. Ricardi still has another 45 minutes ahead of him.

"You have to be careful when handling these birds because you don't want to disturb them more than necessary," Dianne Davis said. "If they are stressed too much, they can overheat and die. And it's better for Tom that he gets down as soon as he can. If he cramps up on the way down, he's in big trouble."

Ricardi climbs down safely. "That was a tough climb," he says. "My legs were really shaking up there. I couldn't really relax anywhere because of where the nest was located. Tough climb, the toughest this year."

Jim Grisanzio



Senior wildlife technician Dianne Davis, right, and Kate Bergen, V98, examine the two chicks. Tufts' wildlife veterinarians, technicians and students examine all the state's eagle chicks for the Bald Eagle Project.



Catherine Mark, V99, extracts DNA from a bald eagle blood sample for genetic diversity analysis.

Photo by Brian DelGiudice

The future of bald eagles in Massachusetts may depend on research at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, where scientists and students are documenting the genetic diversity of the eagles and the effect environmental contaminants may be having on the state's eagle population.

Dr. Acacia Alcivar-Warren, assistant professor of comparative medicine, and her student, Catherine Mark, V99, have been given three years of blood and feather samples from the Bald Eagle Project. They are studying the DNA from the birds to determine genetic diversity and the RNA to determine the effects pollutants have on gene expression. They are also developing new techniques to determine if they can obtain the same genetic information from feathers as they can from blood samples. If so, future studies can be less invasive for the birds.

"When we have the results from these studies and begin to elucidate the genetic makeup of the birds, it will help wildlife biologists develop effective breeding programs that will ensure long-term genetic diversity of the bald eagles," Mark said.

Tufts University has just completed the most successful fund-raising year in its history, securing \$55.3 million in private philanthropy university-wide by the close of the 1996 fiscal year on June 30.

For the sixth consecutive year, the School of Veterinary Medicine broke its own fund-raising records, with total achievement exceeding \$6 million for the first time, including \$766,500 raised through the Tufts Veterinary Fund. The veterinary school has reached 54 percent of its \$41 million total *Tufts Tomorrow* goal.

The stories here show that philanthropy is crucial in helping the school address some of its most pressing needs. If you want to learn more about how you can help, contact Shelley Rodman, director of veterinary development, at (508) 839-7907 or e-mail her at [SRodman@Infonet.Tufts.Edu](mailto:SRodman@Infonet.Tufts.Edu)

## Foster Hospital expansion will house Harrington Oncology Program

**D**r. Henry L. Foster and his wife, Lois, have been keeping an eye on the hospital that bears their name at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. The animal care facility that they helped dedicate 11 years ago has become so renowned that it has to expand to handle the demand for its services.

Since the hospital opened in October 1985, its examination rooms and other treatment facilities have become crowded with continual use. At last estimate, more than 17,000 small animals — primarily dogs and cats — have been treated annually at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals.

The Fosters have responded to the hospital's needs with a \$1.1 million gift to construct a 3,850 square-foot addition to the Foster Hospital — the first expansion of the facility. Construction began in mid-

July and is expected to be completed at the beginning of 1997.

"My interest has always been to provide an opportunity for students to receive a quality veterinary education connected to a university that has nationally recognized programs in the health sciences," said Foster, a trustee of Tufts and chairman of the School of Veterinary Medicine's Board of Overseers. "With this expansion, I am pleased that we'll be able to treat an additional caseload, and most important, to provide physical space for the oncology program."

The addition will house the Harrington Oncology Program, which was established through a leadership gift from Sarah and Jeff Williams, and other donations. Sarah Williams, who named the program in honor of her family, is a member of the school's Board of Overseers. The new oncology program ex-



pands upon the school's proven cancer-fighting capabilities by including, among other items, a linear accelerator to treat both superficial and deep tumors that do not respond to traditional cancer therapies, said Dr. Linda Ross, hospital director.

The new addition "enables us to create additional space for oncology patients and is more efficient and convenient for the oncology team," Ross said. Oncology visits and services grew by 20 percent over the past year, she added.

Four new examination rooms in the addition and freed-up spaces in the existing Foster Hospital will allow Tufts veterinarians to expand services to animals and provide a less-congested facility for clients. And veterinary students benefit by getting to spend more time with animals.

In addition to oncology, the Foster Hospital provides services to small animals in anesthesiology, behavior, cardiology, critical care, dermatology, gastroenterology, neurology and soft-tissue and orthopedic surgery, among many other specialties.

"At times we've had to limit scheduling because of lack of rooms," Ross said. "Because of the Fosters' generosity, we'll be able to expand the range of services we offer and perhaps extend our hours. The Fosters' contributions to the veterinary school have been invaluable."

John LoDico

*An architect's rendering of a major addition (center) to the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals. Construction on the 3,850 square-foot wing — which will house the Harrington Oncology Program and a linear accelerator for high-tech radiation therapy — will be completed early next year.*

Rendering courtesy of DTS Shaw Associates Inc.

## OUR TALENTED STUDENTS COUNT ON FINANCIAL AID

Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine wants to attract the best students, regardless of their ability to pay. To support those students, the veterinary school has to provide as much financial aid as it can at a time when federal money for scholarships, grants and loans has been reduced dramatically.

A series of gifts the school received this year has helped to bolster the school's ability to offer competitive financial aid packages to its students — a leading goal of the \$400 million *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign.

Those gifts fulfill what Dean Philip C. Kosch calls "the primary focus of the school: Educating students who bring compassion and talent to the treatment of animal illness. We want students to choose Tufts because it offers the innovative programs and stimulating academic environment they seek to achieve their career goals; we do not want promising students unable to attend Tufts because of financial barriers."

Pauline Nickerson, a member of the veterinary school's Board of Overseers, this year built on her previous gifts for student aid by making an outright \$100,000 contribution to establish a new endowed scholarship and to build her emergency student loan fund.

An anonymous veterinary school friend, whose pet was treated at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals, made a \$1.2 million planned giving commitment to endow a scholarship fund.

The late Louise Hill of Stoneham, Mass., left \$175,000 to the school on the advice of her longtime veterinarian, Dr. Cornelius Thibeault, who told her years ago that the best way to help animals is to help Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Also this past year, four recently established endowed scholarships produced their first grant awards to students: The Rosamond "Darby" Chambers Endowed Scholarship Fund, the Anne Kimball Garland Endowed Scholarship Fund, the John and Georgia O'Neil Flagg Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Helen Carey Bowman Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Of the veterinary school's 305 students, approximately 80 to 85 percent seek some sort of financial assistance. The school awarded roughly \$1.4 million in financial aid during the 1995-96 school year. Even so, with tuition at approximately \$25,000 per year, most students still must borrow heavily to meet the cost of their education. That is why increasing student financial aid is an ongoing goal of Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and the *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign.

John LoDico



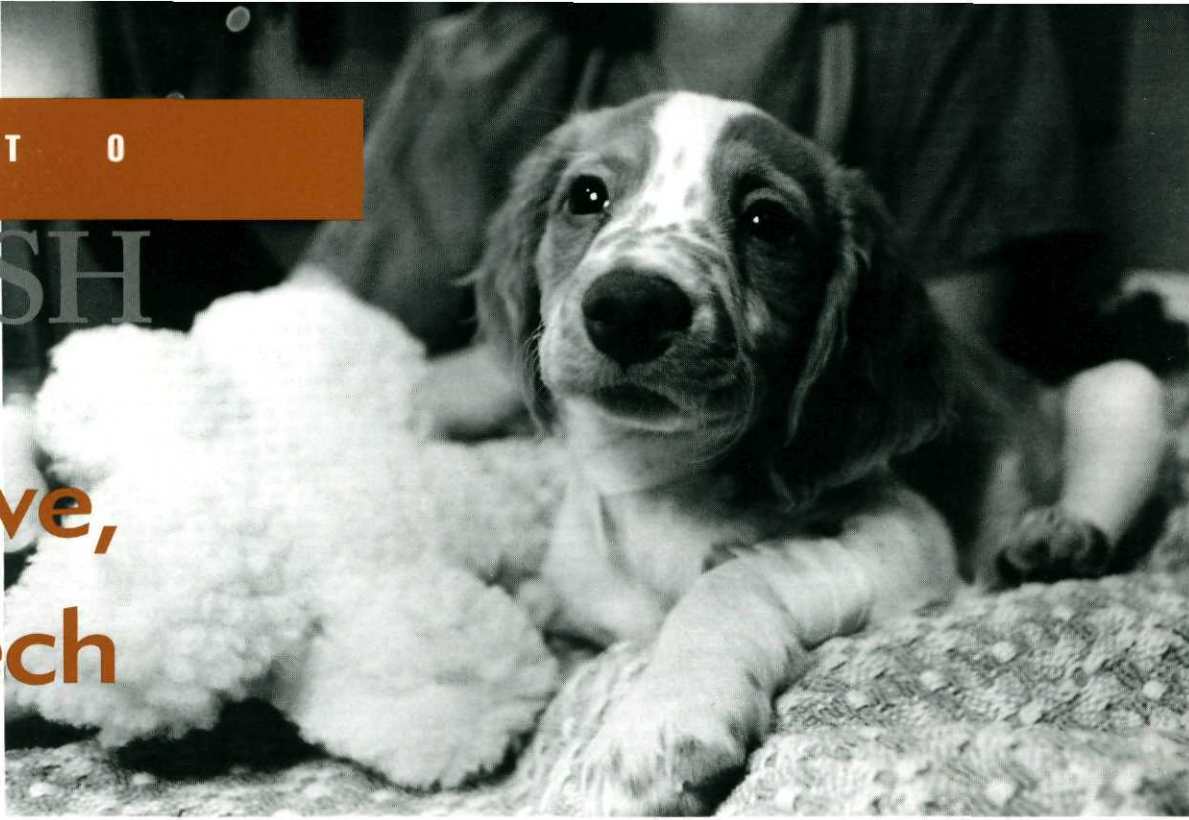
*The veterinary school's ability to attract the most talented students is tied to its ability to offer competitive financial aid packages. Here, Dr. Linda Ross, right, associate dean for clinical programs and hospital director, helps Kathryn L. Gorski, V96, examine K.C. the cat.*

Photo by Brooks Kraft

P H O T O

# FINISH

## Intensive, high-tech care



*This puppy is being treated for a broken leg at Tufts' Foster Hospital for Small Animals.*

*The hospital's Intensive Care Unit is an extremely busy — and often hectic — place, requiring cool nerves and fast decisions. Veterinarians work in overlapping shifts to treat the 4,000 to 5,000 patients that come through the door every year — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Cases range from simple abscess drainings to massive, life-threatening trauma resulting from car accidents to respiratory problems requiring advanced ventilation therapy.*

*"We are the only show in town on holidays and weekends," said Dr. Robert J. Murtaugh, director of ICU, which is staffed by four faculty veterinarians, nine residents, two interns and four to eight students.*

*"We can see as many as 100 cases on a holiday weekend. And the students are involved with all facets of this complex, fast-paced operation," said Murtaugh.*

Photo by Mark Morelli

## Veterinary World

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