

Veterinary

World

WINTER 1996-97



AN 'IRISH MIRACLE'

Dr. Melissa Mazan, left, and veterinary technician Beth Torello give Irish a cool-off bath. Clearly out of danger but still too weak to go home, Irish, the youngest foal ever treated at Tufts, spent another six weeks at the hospital.

Photo by Bob Brown

Equine neonatal intensive care comes of age in veterinary medicine

An extraordinary thoroughbred foal was born on St. Patrick's Day and brought to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine within hours of her birth — a stunning eight weeks premature.

She shouldn't have survived. But as she flitted between life and death for months, this animal touched the faculty, staff and students who cared for her. She was treated at Tufts' Marilyn M. Simpson Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, directed by Dr. Mary Rose Paradis. The unit ranks

among the nation's first and best equine neonatal units, achieving up to an 80 percent survival rate for critically ill newborn foals.

This foal had less than a 5 percent chance of surviving, said Dr. Melissa Mazan, the second-year resident who was on duty when the filly arrived at Tufts. The foal's owner told Mazan to do everything she could. He had seen miracles before with another foal that he had sent to Tufts. He said he was going to name this foal 'Irish Miracle' because he knew in his

(See IRISH, page 8)

TALKING TO THE ANIMALS

Throughout the ages, people from all cultures have kept animals as pets. More than 50 percent of American households currently keep some furry friends around. Why? Turn to page 6 to learn about our special relationship with the animal kingdom from one of the nation's leading authorities in the field, Dr. Andrew Rowan, director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.



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DEAN

by Philip C. Kosch

UNIFYING THE FAMILY IN NORTH GRAFTON

My mission as dean is to find ways to constantly improve teaching, research and service activities at our school. Improving the working and learning environment for faculty, staff and students is of primary concern to me.

At the top of my agenda is the need to unify our professional degree program on the Grafton campus. The school has worked gradually, over many years, to achieve the consolidation of our academic program. The completion of the Franklin M. Loew Veterinary Medical Education Center, an important success in this effort three years ago, actually makes the last stages of the consolidation more urgent. When the second-year class moved out of downtown Boston into the Loew Center, the first-year students became more isolated.

We are not wasting any time in completing the Grafton campus infrastructure to support all four classes. In this issue of *Veterinary World*, you can read more about our facility enhancement plans. [See story, page 10.] In addition to improving the academic and extracurricular environment for veterinary students, having the first-year class in Grafton will promote the most efficient use of faculty time and ease a number of scheduling problems. The school also will realize needed cost savings with all educational and support activity focused on one campus.

By keeping the focus on continuous improvement of our teaching, research and service activities, we will continue to build an internationally distinctive veterinary school of which we can all be proud.

It's very easy to have pride in our programs. On November 1, most of the 35 Tufts University trustees came to Grafton for one of their board meetings. This was a first in the 18-year history of the school. Many toured our campus and buildings to see the clinical and research programs that have developed on the Grafton campus. In the evening at the Gifford House, Tufts President John DiBiaggio's home, we had the opportunity to showcase our five signature programs, the emerging conservation medicine program and our impressive infectious disease research group, which is investigating several enteric diseases of public health importance.

During my first few months as dean, I've recognized some of the institutional qualities that make Tufts so different from other veterinary schools. Tufts values creativity and innovation on a scale exceeding other places. The school is daring. It was bold and risky to start an independent veterinary school, and this demanded a very special attitude and effort. Our faculty have been visionaries, thinking of what's possible, not just of what is expected and traditional.

Our students are also unusual; they have chosen Tufts precisely because our curriculum and signature programs are pushing the boundaries of veterinary medicine. Perhaps defining new roles for veterinarians in society is exactly the responsibility of a private institution in a landscape dominated by public land-grant universities.

Tufts keeps on getting better

Tufts University has risen in the ranks of the nation's top 25 universities in this year's *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" issue.

Tufts' ranking among national universities is now 22 — up from last year's 25th position — placing it firmly among the top universities in the nation, according to *U.S. News*.

"We are pleased that this ranking will help get the word out to more prospective students that Tufts has one of the most innovative and relevant environments for learning in the country," Tufts President John DiBiaggio said.

Tufts' ranking as a top national university is based on ratings in categories that include academic reputation, student selectivity, student/faculty ratio and a new rating category, "value added," which attempts to judge how well a school is educating its students.

Tufts improved in areas including an increased percentage of alumni giving, high SAT scores for entering students and more financial resources.

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

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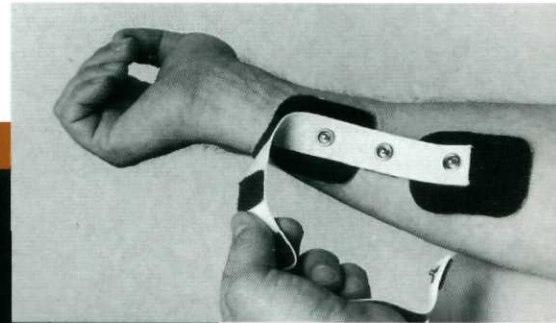
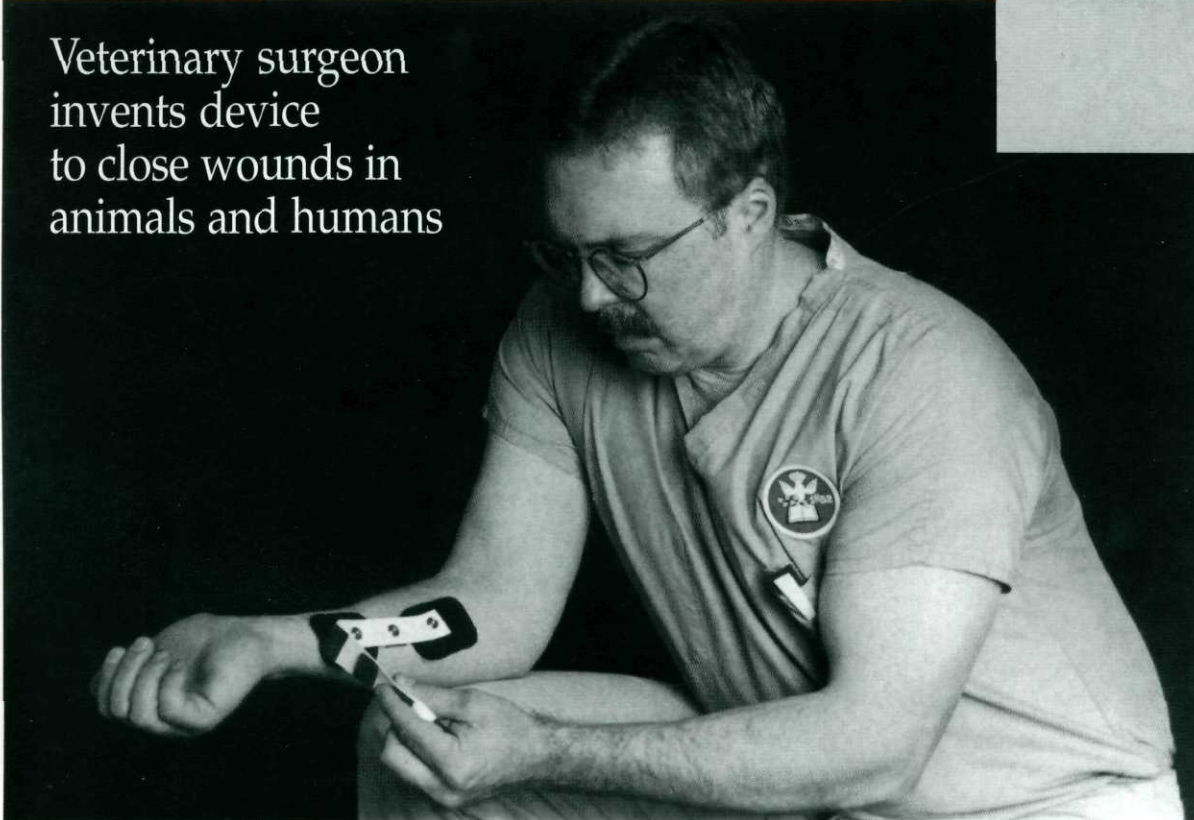
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INNOVATORS

Veterinary surgeon invents device to close wounds in animals and humans



Dr. Michael M. Pavletic demonstrates his skin-stretcher, a simple and safe method to stretch healthy skin over large wounds. The device is inexpensive, works quickly, is applied externally and is easily adjusted and removed.

Photos by Bob Brown

Skin-stretcher has myriad potential applications



Michael M. Pavletic

It's a good thing Dr. Michael M. Pavletic couldn't get to sleep one night a few years back.

His case of insomnia led to a discovery that has helped dozens of animals recovering from serious wounds as a result of burns, bites, radiation injury and the removal of large skin tumors. Some day, people suffering from similar injuries may benefit from its use. Even those seeking cosmetic surgery may find that a sleepless veterinarian changed their lives.

"I was just laying there thinking about how I was going to treat a difficult burn wound in a beagle," recalls Pavletic, chief of small animal surgery at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. "There simply was not enough skin to close the wound without resorting to more costly reconstructive surgical techniques."

Then it came to Pavletic. What would happen if he tried to somehow stretch or pull the skin over the wound? For example, abdominal skin stretches progressively during pregnancy, so a device applying continuous tension to the outer skin surface may be able to stretch skin in a much shorter time, Pavletic figured. "It seemed so simple, and there was nothing to lose in trying to help this dog," he said.

Pavletic built an adjustable skin-stretching device from elastic bands and Velcro — with the help of his wife and her sewing machine. The next day he attached his new skin-stretcher to healthy skin on both sides of the animal's wound and applied moderate tension. As the skin stretched, he continued to adjust the

cable tension. "Within 72 hours, the skin had stretched enough to close with sutures," Pavletic said. "I was stunned at how well it worked."

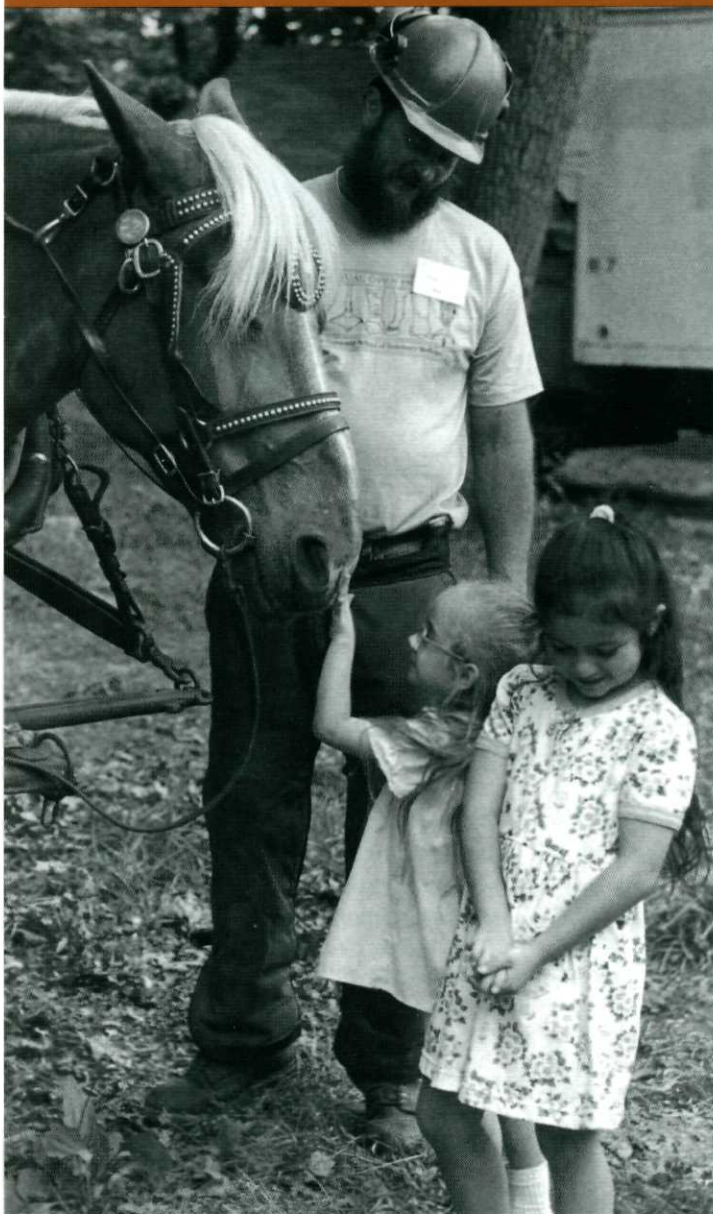
Pavletic, a board-certified veterinary surgeon, continues to improve upon his skin-stretcher. He has patented the device and is exploring the possibility of corporate support to manufacture it for use by veterinarians. Pavletic is confident the skin-stretchers will be equally useful in humans.

"In many cases, you can close some difficult wounds in a few days without resorting to expensive and difficult reconstructive surgical procedures such as skin grafts, skin flaps or implantable tissue expanders, each of which have potential complications," he said.

Jim Grisanzio

BRIEFLY

THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR VETERINARY OPEN HOUSE



Above, Bruce Cheney of Paxton, Mass., shows two bashful little girls his draft horse.

Top right, Julie Collier, a raptor specialist and wildlife educator in Springfield, Mass., explains the life of an adult golden eagle. Collier also showed Open House visitors a bald eagle, peregrine falcon, red-tailed hawk and several owls.

Photos by Brian DeGiudice



More than 3,500 visitors braved the rain and threat of a hurricane to visit the School of Veterinary Medicine for its 13th annual Open House September 7 on the Grafton campus.

People came from throughout New England to talk with Tufts' internationally recognized veterinarians and to see demonstrations in the Hospital for Large Animals and the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals, working dog exhibitions, wild-life presentations, sheep-shearing, animal health-care exhibits and other fun activities for the kids. There were self-guided tours, videos and CD-ROMs showing a variety of veterinary procedures and microscopes displaying biological samples and information for prospective veterinary students. Special attractions included the horse treadmill, New England Miniature Horse Society show and the USDA Beagle Brigade. □

Equine weight-watchers

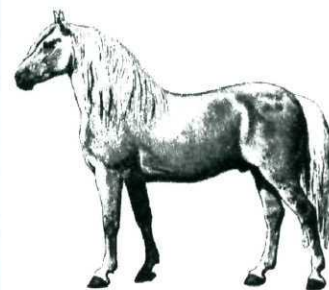
How do you know when your horse needs to gain or lose a few pounds? By applying the same technique veterinarians use — looking and feeling for fat deposits in the primary fat-storage zones: along the neck, withers and back; behind the shoulder and at the tailhead, according to a recent issue of Tufts' newsletter *Horse!*

When a horse is at its ideal weight, its neck and shoulders flow smoothly into its body; its withers are rounded, and its back is level without an obvious ridge or crease along the spine. You can easily feel — but barely see — its ribs and pelvis. You'll also note some spongy fat at the tailhead.

But as a horse gains unwanted pounds, its neck thickens and develops a fatty bulge along the top. Soft fat deposits also accumulate at the withers, behind the shoulders, at the tailhead and on either side of the spine (forming a "gutter" down the back). The fatter the horse, the more difficult it is to feel its ribs and pelvis.

As a horse loses weight, its neck, shoulders, withers, spine, ribs and pelvis become progressively more noticeable. A horse with a severe weight-loss problem has a prominent tailhead and lacks visible or palpable fatty tissue.

For *Horse!* subscription information call (800) 829-2509. □



Continuing education

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

- Abdominal Ultrasound for the Small Animal Practitioner, Sunday, February 2, 1997, at the North Grafton campus
- 13th Annual Feline Symposium for Owners and Breeders, Saturday, March 15, 1997, at the North Grafton campus

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



A winter tip

On a cold winter night, an outdoor cat's next best choice to a warm house is a warm engine. The underside of a recently parked car offers both warmth and shelter.

Ever in search of creature comforts, cats will sometimes climb up into a car engine to escape the elements. For the sake of your cat and the parade of cats that pass through your yard, be sure to check under your car and give the hood a hearty thump or two before starting the engine and driving away.

For more about our furry feline friends, subscribe to *Catnip*, Tufts' newsletter for cat owners, at (800) 829-0926. □

AND THE GRADUATES ARE...



On November 15, the School of Veterinary Medicine graduated the nation's first eight students with a master of science degree in animals and public policy. The new program was developed by the school's Center for Animals and Public Policy and marks the increasing prominence that human/animal issues are receiving. Back row from left are Joan Weer-Cercione, program administrator; Dr. Andrew Rowan, program director; Donna Pease, office manager. Graduates, front row from left are Stephanie S. Frommer, Danielle Jo Bays, Dena J. Jones, Dr. Elizabeth J. Colleran, V90, Elizabeth A. Clancy and Linda S. Huebner. Not shown: Jennifer L. O'Driscoll and Christine L. Davis.

Photo by Brian DeGiudice

VETERINARY DEAN WELCOMED



Dr. Philip C. Kosch, third from right, the third dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, was officially welcomed into the Tufts community at a reception September 27 on the Grafton campus. Guests included the central Massachusetts legislative delegation, local business leaders, Grafton town officials and deans from Tufts' other schools and colleges. Shown with Kosch, from left, are Tufts President John DiBiaggio, state legislators George N. Peterson Jr., Ronald W. Gauch, Robert A. Bernstein and Matthew J. Amorello.

Photo by John Bohn

Raccoon rabies vaccine distribution continues

Scientists and volunteers from the School of Veterinary Medicine distributed 20,000 fish-meal baits containing an oral raccoon rabies vaccine along the Cape Cod Canal this fall to evaluate how effectively the vaccine delivery system stops the disease from spreading to the Cape.

The pilot project is ending its third year and has successfully created an 80-square-mile "rabies vaccine zone" along the canal, three miles inland and five miles onto the Cape. Roughly 50 percent of the raccoon population in the zone has been vaccinated; in some areas on the mainland side, up to 80 percent has been vaccinated.

"We're getting a lot of good vaccination data now," said Dr. Alison Robbins, V92, co-principal investigator and project coordinator for Tufts'

rabies program. "There have been 19 cases of raccoon rabies within six miles of the zone on the mainland. We really expected rabies to be all the way out on the Cape by now, but the barrier is holding really strong. We are very, very pleased with the results."

The program is funded through summer 1997 by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. If the vaccine continues to work, the program may be applied to other areas of the state infiltrated by raccoon rabies. □



The secret bond between people and their pets

Q What is the human/animal bond?

A Rowan: There is really no comprehensive theory to explain the human/animal bond. One idea is that people tend to neotenize their animals, that is, the animals retain child-like characteristics, and people talk to them in the same way they talk to babies. They are clearly treating the pet like a child, and this sort of baby talk is relaxing for people.

The classic example of neoteny is Mickey Mouse. [Harvard paleontologist] Stephen J. Gould studied Mickey Mouse's evolution from 1927 to 1952 and documented the character's transformation from "Steamboat Willy" — a ratty-like creature with a long tail, skinny legs, small eyes and a long nose — to the present-day mouse. Over the years, Mickey's head and eyes became bigger; the black part of his eyes increased in size; his nose and limbs shortened, and his ears got smaller. Steamboat Willy was a mischievous character; Mickey Mouse is a bland, lovable character. Disney's bad characters tend to have more adult-like features, while the heroes tend to be neotenized, or childlike creatures. We don't know if this was the intent of the Disney artists throughout the decades, but these were Gould's observations.

Q How does the notion of neoteny affect people?

A Rowan: It also has been argued that neoteny is the stimulus that releases nurturing behavior. When you see a creature with a large cranial cavity and large eyes in comparison to its head and short stubby limbs and clumsy movement and a short nose, your immediate response is "Oh, how cute," and of course that is what a baby looks like. These images elicit a nurturing response from adult humans. It seems reasonable to believe that this response is innate. Remember that humans are born helpless and need a long period of care, so people are required to do a lot of nurturing. This nurturing impulse appears to be behind the gardening impulse, behind the pet-keeping impulse and behind the impulse to rescue injured animals.

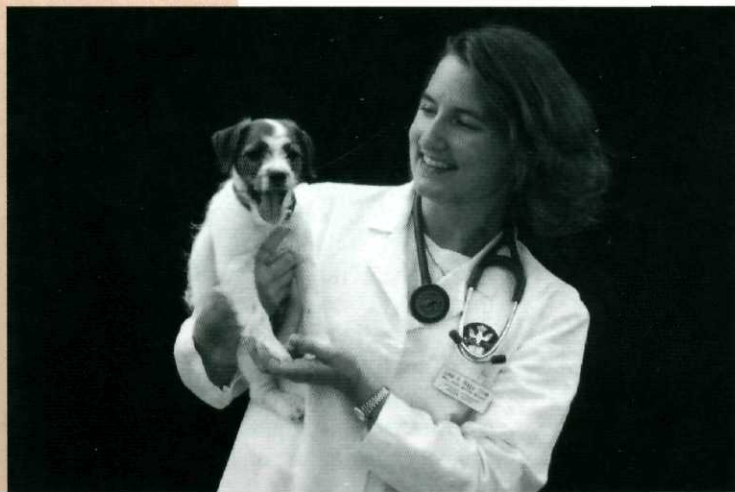
Q Is there a cultural aspect to the human/animal bond?



Dr. Andrew Rowan chatting with a student

Editor's Note:

Veterinary World editor Jim Grisanzio sat down with Dr. Andrew Rowan, director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, for a free-ranging conversation about the impact that animals have on our lives. Here is some of that exchange:



A Rowan: Perhaps. It appears as though cultures that promote a lot of social contact between individual human beings tend to have lower rates of pet ownership. It may be that if you have more contact with humans you may need less contact with pets. Intimacy and touch are very important to human well-being. It's known that the more you touch and caress a baby, the better it grows.

Q How do animals help people feel safe?

A Rowan: It has been argued that the sight of an outstretched, relaxed cat in front of a fireplace shows the anti-anxiety effect of pets. An animal calmly sleeping in your home goes back to our roots on the African savanna. It was a sign that there wasn't any danger around. It's interesting to note that people who have cats will say that the cats give them a sense of security, even though the cat can't protect the owner.

Q Why do pet owners say their pets give them a different kind of love?

A Rowan: Because it's unconditional, and many times they can't get that from other people. The animals that we keep unreservedly tell us what good people we are. Even though we know we are not always good, the animals keep telling us we are wonderful.

Q Do people experience that same unconditional feeling with wildlife?

A Rowan: Certainly. If you go to Hyde Park in London, where the sparrows and squirrels will take food out of your hand, you'll see elderly people feeding the animals for hours. Just look at the children. Their eyes light right up as a flock of birds comes to them.



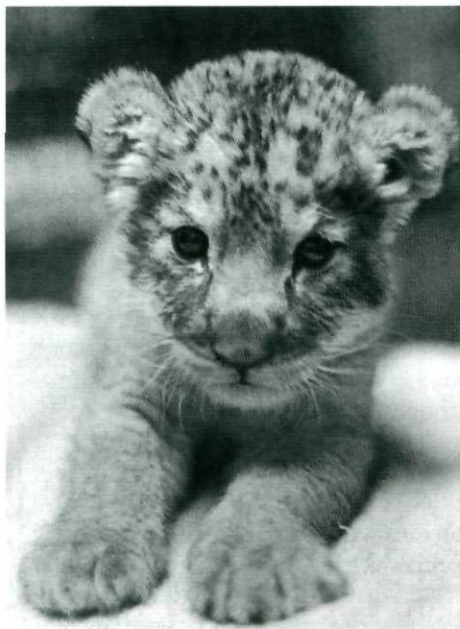
Q It seems that pets can help people who are ill or just lonely. Why aren't doctors prescribing pets as therapy?

A Rowan: Well for one thing, there is no money in it. You can't make money selling a puppy as a therapy pill. And second, the effects are long term. Having a pet is a long-term therapy and responsibility. Third, I think the medical profession

generally sees it as a warm and fuzzy emotional response. The central authority in medicine is objective, scientific knowledge, and we really don't have a lot of scientific studies to demonstrate this phenomenon.

Q Just how much science is there on the health effects of having a pet?

A Rowan: Very little. I can count the quality studies on one hand. There is some good science in cardiovascular health and mental health, maybe four or five good peer-reviewed papers in the literature; the rest is anecdotal. And funding new studies is difficult. It's a Catch-22, really. In order to do the studies to demonstrate what veterinarians and pet owners have observed to the point where it becomes accepted by the medical community and used as a part of clinical medicine, you need hundreds of thousands of dollars and years of research. There hasn't been that kind of money to do the large-scale population studies.



NEONATAL ICU PRODUCES AN 'IRISH MIRACLE'



At left, just a handful of Irish's hospital veterinary team. Actually, more than 100 people had a hand in saving Irish's life during her six-month stay at Tufts.

Below, Dr. Melissa Mazan, right, and veterinary technician Beth Torello with Irish the day she went home in September. The feisty thoroughbred is about four inches shorter than normal and still about 200 pounds lighter than she should be. During the coming year, she should regain normal size, weight and strength.

Photos by Brian DeGiudice

(Continued from page 1)

heart that she would survive.

Irish was eight weeks premature most probably because of a severe uterine infection in her mother. Her lungs were underdeveloped, and her bones were not completely calcified. She had septicemia, a widespread bacterial infection, which gave her pneumonia and diarrhea. And if that weren't enough, her mother rejected her from the start.

Irish was put on a respirator. She was given plasma transfusions and antibiotics. And she had to have casts on all four legs to allow her bones to mature. She was fed through a tube, but eventually that irritated her throat. Whenever she was weaned off her feeding tube, she would aspirate milk into her airways, further compromising her lungs. The back of her throat became paralyzed, so she was fed intravenously. Later, Tufts veterinarians performed an esophagostomy so a feeding tube could be inserted through her neck, into her esophagus and down into her stomach. The procedure was a first for a foal at Tufts.

"She just kept hanging on. She tolerated every procedure we could think of to save her," Mazan said. "She wanted to survive. She had more heart than any foal I've ever worked with. Everyone in the hospital loved her."

About 100 people took care of Irish at one point or another. Many came in on their days off and stayed with her all night. "She was special," said Beth Torello, a large animal veterinary technician who quickly became known as Irish's nurse. "She had a real gift. At every step of the way she was saying, 'I want to live.'"



Each year Tufts cares for seriously ill foals that their owners don't want to give up on. "These owners allow us to stretch beyond our current knowledge to try new and sometimes more expensive therapies," said Paradis, who started the Tufts neonatal ICU in 1983. "Miracles do happen, and through them we learn that our previous limits may not hold truth anymore."

Irish had to fight for her life, and she needed the best veterinary care and the collective knowledge that has been accumulated in the burgeoning field of equine neonatology, a field conceived 15 years ago by a team of veterinarians led by Dr. Philip C. Kosch, the new dean of Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

"Irish is an example of what we stand for here at Tufts, the best in today's technology coupled with the deepest human compassion," Kosch said.

It was Kosch's research in the early 1980s with his colleagues at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville that created the field of equine neonatology. Kosch, a veterinarian, also held appointments as professor of physiology and of pediatrics in

Florida's College of Medicine. Over two decades, he focused his research on human and equine neonatal physiology. That led to a groundbreaking textbook that Kosch co-edited, *Clinical Equine Neonatology*, which launched equine neonatology as a subspecialty in veterinary medicine.

With the aid of his veterinary colleagues and others in Florida's schools of Medicine, Nursing and Engineering, Kosch created the nation's first equine neonatal intensive care unit in 1982 to serve Florida's then-thriving equine industry. Today, equine ICUs can be found at veterinary schools around the world. "This is my proudest achievement, my involvement in pioneering the development of equine neonatology," Kosch said.

Irish is expected to live a long and healthy life. Although she will never race because she has too much scar tissue in her lungs, her foals may be champions some day. For those who cared for her at Tufts, Irish already is.

Jim Grisanzio

Diabetic dogs living longer, happier lives

Injections, urine tests and emergency doses of sugar are what people often think of when they hear the word diabetes. Yet while diabetes in dogs requires daily attention, both dog and owner can live with this ailment comfortably, according to a recent article in *Your Dog*, a newsletter published by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Diabetes can affect dogs of any age, but older dogs are more at risk. And females seem more at risk than males. Diabetes is caused by a lack of the hormone insulin, which is produced in the pancreas. Insulin is necessary to move sugar — the body's main source of energy — from the blood into the cells, said Dr. Linda Ross, associate dean for clinical programs and hospital director at Tufts. Insulin also helps cells take in and store fats and proteins.

Diabetes occurs in two forms. Type I (insulin-dependent) diabetics have no insulin because the cells that secrete it have been destroyed. Type II (non-insulin-dependent) diabetics secrete normal amounts of insulin, but the cells on which the hormone acts don't respond. While a low-fat, high-fiber diet and oral medication will often manage Type II diabetes, insulin injections are usually necessary to control Type I. Dogs, unfortunately, almost always develop Type I.

Unlike people, dogs are rarely diagnosed with diabetes before symptoms appear. Usually an owner brings the dog to the veterinarian because the dog is drinking abnormally large amounts of water and producing copious amounts of urine. A typical diabetic scenario starts with an otherwise well-trained dog having "accidents" in the house. Another sign of diabetes is increased appetite combined with weight loss.



Although diabetes is manageable, it cannot be cured. It also requires a willing owner to team up with a veterinarian to establish an appropriate at-home treatment plan — including administering insulin, managing a dog's diet and monitoring glucose levels.

"While it does take time and effort and patience to manage diabetes, the vast majority of dogs and their owners live happy lives," Ross said.

For *Your Dog* subscription information, call (800) 829-5116.

Dogs with diabetes can lead quite normal lives if the owner has the determination to manage the disease.

Photo by Robert Weisman

This plan will unify veterinary campus

When Patricia Caisse was accepted to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, she fulfilled a lifetime goal, following in the footsteps of her father and older brother — both veterinarians — and dedicating herself to animal health care. But after a few weeks of her first year on Tufts' health sciences campus in Boston, she began asking herself, "What am I doing here?"



Patricia Caisse

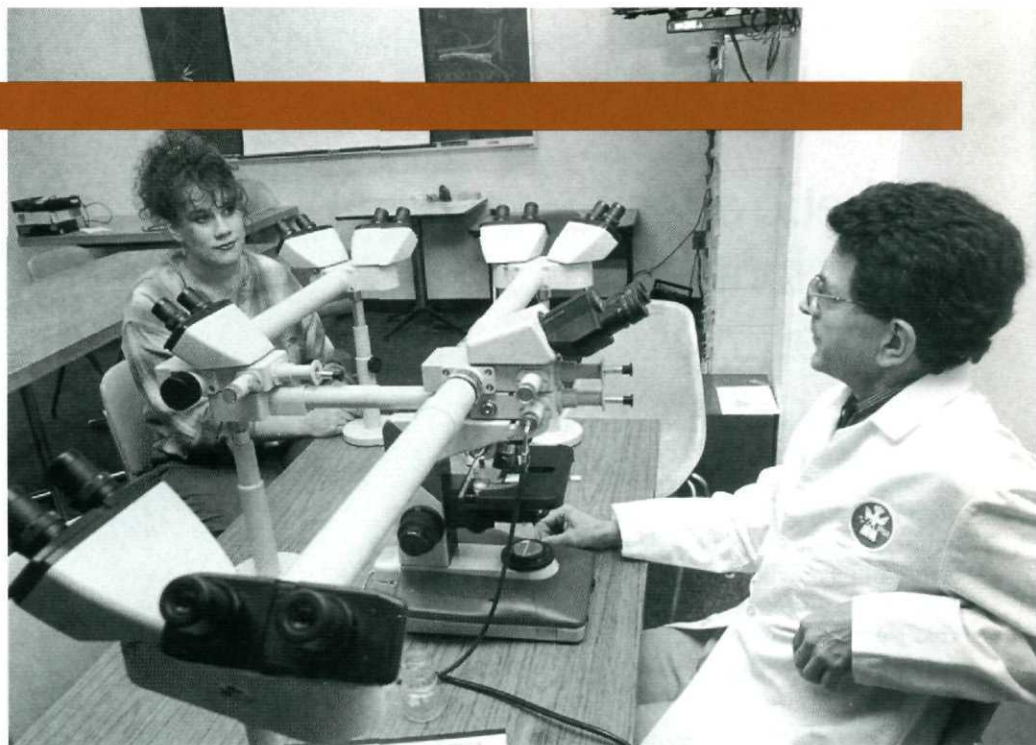
She grew up in rural Sterling, Mass., where her father, Dr. Paul Kowaleski, and her brother, Dr. Michael Kowaleski, V93, practice — and now found herself in a tiny Cambridge apartment, riding a crowded subway to school.

Caisse, now a second-year student, said her first year of veterinary studies set her adrift because the veterinary school she knew and aspired to — the one located 40 miles west of Boston — was disconnected from her experience as a first-year student.

To address the problem of a split campus, the School of Veterinary Medicine is working to build a \$2.25 million anatomy laboratory/education center on the Grafton campus. Once the building is finished, all four veterinary classes will be united for the first time since the school opened in 1979.

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

Already, a series of significant gifts has laid the foundation for the fund-raising effort to construct the facility. Dr. Frank Bumpus, M51, grandson of the fifth president of Tufts University, has donated \$335,000 to the project (see sidebar, page 11). He has been joined by Board of Veterinary Overseers members Dean Webster and Noah Herndon, whose combined gifts have increased the building fund to \$635,000, or 28 percent of the \$2.25 million needed.



Dr. Stephen J. Engler, a veterinary pathologist, talks anatomy and physiology with Patricia Caisse, V99, at the school's multi-headed teaching microscope on the Grafton campus.

Photos by Mark Morelli

When he became dean earlier this year, Dr. Philip C. Kosch said one of his initial priorities would be to unite the school on the Grafton campus. He considers the project so important that he took the original *Tufts Tomorrow* campaign plans to add a \$5 million education wing to the Hospital for Large Animals and divided it into two phases. Phase one — an anatomy laboratory, support laboratories and lecture theater — will redefine education at the veterinary school by bringing first-year students to Grafton as soon as possible. Phase two will add small-group teaching space, a continuing education facility, as well as needed offices and laboratories for residents and faculty.

All veterinary students currently fulfill their first-year basic science requirements on the Boston health sciences campus, consisting of the schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences. Once veterinary students complete the first-year curriculum in Boston, they get the prize — three years in Grafton, where the veterinary school's teaching hospitals and animal care facilities are located.

THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

Sitting in a conference room with the rolling hills of Grafton outside the window, Caisse says, "The environment here is completely different than in Boston. It puts an entirely different light on the curriculum,

and it gives you a sense of what you're here for. When you see the collective effort, everyone here working together for a common purpose, it gives you a great sense of pride."

Each year the school asks students who were offered admission and decided to attend another school to list the reasons for their choice. These surveys show that after cost, the split campus is the second most-cited reason for not choosing Tufts.

"As fund-raising goals go, this one is absolutely clear in how it can help move this exciting school forward. A single building will make us whole."

—Dean Philip C. Kosch

Surveys of those who *do* choose Tufts indicate that students are gratified by the experience, happy with their choice, but put off by how removed they are in their first year from their peers in Grafton and from the main component of their profession — animals. Caisse says it should surprise no one that almost every first-year student's favorite course is Clinical Skills, the bread-and-butter class that puts students in contact with animals and is the

only part of the first-year curriculum offered in Grafton.

"We spend a lot of time and effort attracting a diverse group of talented students here," Kosch says. "And then when we get them here, we plo p them down in Boston, disconnected from the rest of the school."

Dr. Anthony Schwartz, associate dean of academic affairs and chair of surgery, says, "It's important for students to know that they are actually veterinary students, that they are part of a veterinary community and that they meet patients from the first day they are here."

'BIG SIBLINGS'

The day-to-day challenges all students face juggling their academic workloads with life outside of campus are helped by the veterinary school's "Big Sibling" program in which first-year students are teamed with upperclass students. "Unfortunately, with the two campuses, first-year students cannot rely on that support as much as they could" if they were on the Grafton campus, Schwartz says.

"One of the great draws of Tufts over other schools is that there is a separate club for just about any interest you may have," Cassie says. Those interested in horses can join the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and volunteer for the hospital's on-call colic team. Others join the student chapter of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights or the dozen other special-interest groups. "The typical first-year student is very exuberant," Caisse says. "We would all have liked to join clubs, but it was just difficult getting a ride out to Grafton."

THEY DESERVE BETTER

Kosch shakes his head at the difficulties he faces conducting his regular Dean's Hour, a veterinary school tradition in which first-, second- and third-year students meet with Kosch to discuss issues and career opportunities. In Grafton, Dean's Hour is just that — 60 minutes of discussion and community. In Boston, the "hour" is a three-hour excursion for Kosch, involving an hour's drive each way with the discussion sandwiched in between.

"As fund-raising goals go," Kosch says, "this one is absolutely clear in how it can help move this exciting school forward. A single building will make us whole. We are grateful to the school's generous friends who will make this possible. The effect on the learning environment for each entering class of students cannot be overstated. We must accomplish this landmark goal without delay."

John LoDico

A GRANDSON'S GIFT

Dr. Frank Bumpus' \$335,000 gift to the School of Veterinary Medicine has jump-started plans to build a \$2.25 million addition to the Hospital for Large Animals that will allow all four veterinary classes to pursue their studies on the Grafton campus.

Bumpus' gift is notable for more than what it will allow the school to accomplish. The donation came to Tufts through a type of financial plan that allows donors to help the school while receiving financial benefits for themselves or for someone they designate. And this gift has a genealogy that would interest anyone with an affection for Tufts University and for the good work the veterinary school is performing to further animal health and well-being.

A 1951 graduate of Tufts School of Medicine, Bumpus created a charitable remainder unitrust 15 years ago that provided income each year. Once the term of the trust expired this year, the \$670,445 principal was distributed to the charitable beneficiary Bumpus had chosen — in this case, an equal distribution between his *alma mater*, the School of Medicine, and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Bumpus says he has always been a "big dog and horse lover," from his days growing up on a small farm in Rochester, Minn. His father was a urologist at nearby Mayo Clinic.

"I realize that Tufts' veterinary school is relatively young, and that it doesn't have a big alumni base yet," he said. "The plans to create the new anatomy building and lecture hall just seems to make a great deal of sense, and I am glad I can help." Bumpus now lives in upstate New York and says he devotes his time to his business interests rather than to medicine. He still keeps abreast of developments at Tufts, however, which is why he wanted to help the university at this critical juncture in its history.

Loyal alumni and others who appreciate the value of the university's research and scholarship often direct their philanthropic support to Tufts' schools and colleges. But Bumpus has another connection to Tufts that he says helped him direct his generous donation here: His grandfather, Hermon Carey Bumpus, was Tufts' fifth president, serving during the tumultuous World War I years, 1914 to 1919.

Bumpus remembers his grandfather, President Bumpus, as a "remarkable man," and the history of Tufts' former leader proves the grandson's assessment to be more than familial pride. President Bumpus was a Brown University graduate and the recipient of the first Ph.D. ever awarded by Clark University in Worcester, Mass. He was director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole and director of the American Museum of Natural History. He was the first president of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and the first business manager at the University of Wisconsin. *Light on the Hill*, the historical record of Tufts, reports that an ex-president of Brown recommended Bumpus to Tufts by writing: "There could not be a better man for the head of Tufts for the simple reason that God doesn't produce any better."

"That connection obviously means a lot to me," says Bumpus. "It's rewarding to be able to come back and help the schools that mean so much to me. I hope I have set a small example for others to help Tufts Medicine and Tufts Veterinary Medicine succeed."

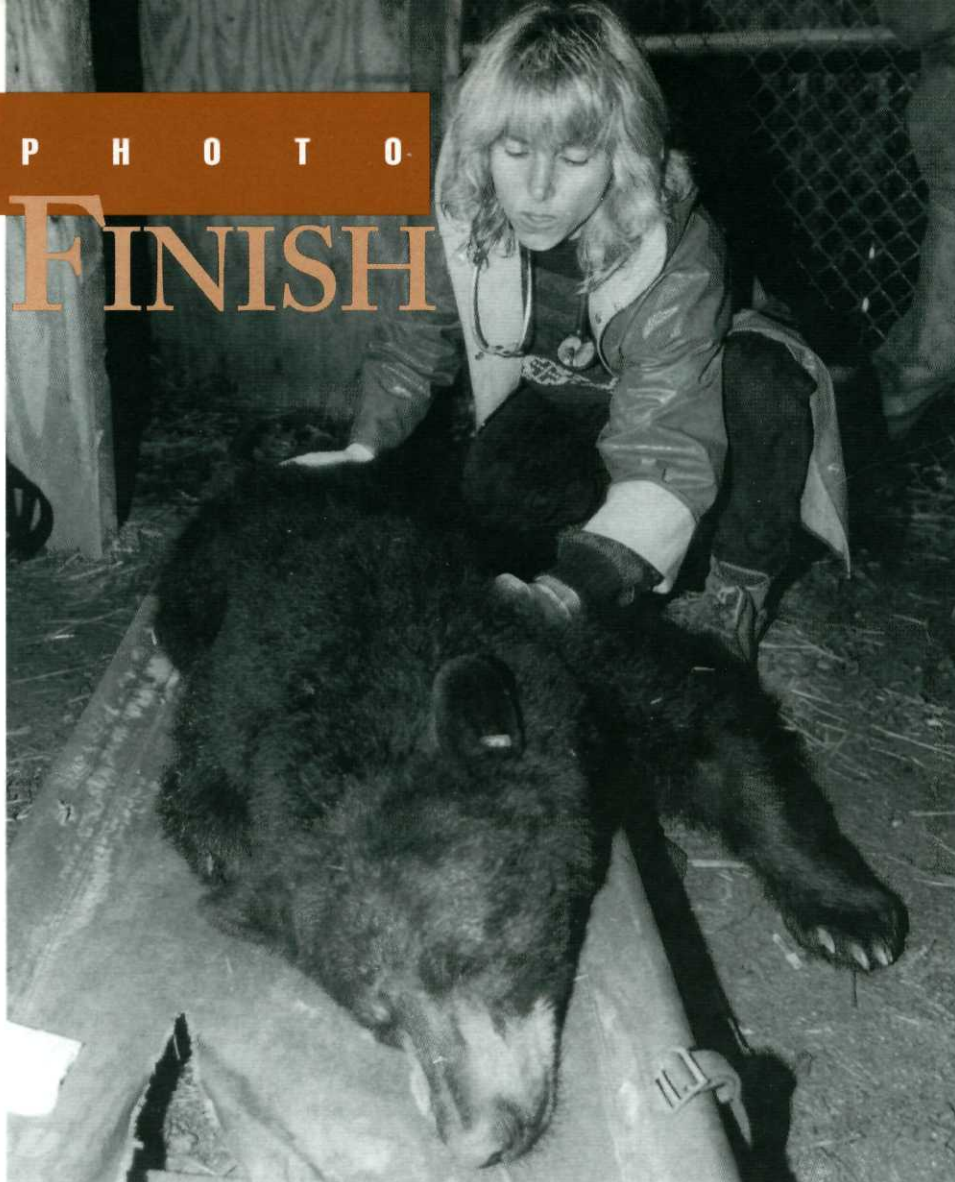
John LoDico



For information about how to contribute to the anatomy laboratory/education center project, or to receive a brochure and information about charitable remainder unitrusts and other planned giving opportunities, contact Shelley Rodman, director of development, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, at (508) 839-7905; fax (508) 839-7232; e-mail srodman@infonet.tufts.edu.

P H O T O

FINISH



Associated Press photo

Freedom!

Tufts veterinarian Dr. Rose Borkowski rolls a tranquilized 18-month-old, 80-pound bear onto a stretcher at the New England Science Center in Worcester, Mass., in preparation for the animal's release in the Berkshire Mountains in western Massachusetts.

The youngster spent a month recuperating from injuries sustained when she was hit by a truck in August. Rescued by workers from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the bear was taken to Greylock Animal Hospital in Adams for initial treatment. Then she was off to Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine's Wildlife Clinic for a week of treatments, including X-rays, a CAT scan of her brain and a complete blood workup.

It turns out that the bear was suffering from several severely fractured ribs. Wildlife veterinarians and state biologists decided to hold her until after the bear-hunting season, so she spent the next several weeks resting and gaining weight at the New England Science Center. All along her odyssey, her caretakers took great pains to see that she didn't become habituated to humans to give her the best chance of survival.

She was released on a stormy morning September 18 in the Windsor Wildlife Management area a few miles from where she was hit. She darted from her trailer in full gallop and disappeared into the dense brush. She never looked back — which was exactly what she was supposed to do.

Veterinary World

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