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Annual Report 2015

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The UW School of Veterinary Medicine uses gift funds to produce its publications. To donate to the school, contact:

Pat Bowdish  
Director of Development  
(608) 294-7661  
pat.bowdish@supportuw.org

This report is also available online at  
www.vetmed.wisc.edu/annual-reports

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Dean

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Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Training

Ruthanne Chun  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Robb Hardie  
Associate Dean for Professional Programs

Lynn Maki  
Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs

Ed Rodriguez  
Associate Dean for Budget and Finance

Kristi V. Thorson  
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

Editorial

Writing, Editing, Design, and Photography  
Nik Hawkins, Director of Communications

Infographic Design  
Ashley Voss, Communications Specialist

Additional Photography  
Bryce Richter, University Communications

Cover

Sandra Newbury, clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine, gives Neptune a physical exam at the Dane County Humane Society where she and other members of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine Shelter Medicine Program established isolation protocols for dealing with a canine ringworm outbreak.  
(Photo: Nik Hawkins)

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This past year has been filled with success for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Here are just a handful of highlights:

- UW-Madison alumnus William Campbell received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Campbell earned his masters and PhD degrees in the 1950s from the Department of Veterinary Science, an award-winning research training program that later became our Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) Graduate Program.

- The CBMS Graduate Program was again ranked in the top 10 among its peers nationwide and is one of only seven programs on the UW-Madison campus achieving this distinction.

- U.S. News and World Report announced in 2015 that we were again ranked fifth among schools of veterinary medicine nationally, a distinction that we’ve held for many years.

- Our faculty continue to be recognized nationally and internationally. For example, Yoshihiro Kawaoka received the Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award and Ian Duncan received the American Veterinary Medical Association Lifetime Excellence in Research Award.

- We launched our new Shelter Medicine Program, led by Sandra Newbury.

- UW Veterinary Care, the school’s teaching hospital, set a record by exceeding 24,000 annual patient visits.

When the Veterinary Medicine Building was built 30 years ago, our hospital was expected to see approximately 12,000 patient visits per year, and it was designed long.
before large pieces of imaging equipment, such as CT, MRI, and nuclear scintigraphy, were available in veterinary medical hospitals. Today, we continue searching for the space needed to accommodate this significant growth in patient numbers and technological advancement.

We recently completed a remodeling project that created a feline- and exotic-specific waiting room and two new examination rooms for these species (see p. 9). And very soon we will begin constructing a new student learning center with a dramatically expanded clinical skills laboratory and an active integrated learning space (see p. 6). These and other upgrades to the school highlight the importance of our friends and alumni in helping the school maintain its excellence. It is only through your generosity and support that we are able to build and remodel the spaces necessary to teach our students and treat our patients with the excellence they deserve.

Whether we’re addressing our need for additional research laboratory space, the overcrowded work areas in our hospital, or the lack of office space for our faculty, we are focused on creating new spaces in support of the school’s work. In that vein, we have recently completed a feasibility study investigating an addition to the Veterinary Medicine Building just across the street in our main parking lot. The total project costs are estimated to be between $100 and $115 million, depending on when construction begins.

In support of this ambitious project, we officially began our Capital Campaign in September 2015 and launched an initiative called “Animals Need Heroes Too” (see more at www.AnimalsNeedHeroesToo.com). Our goal is to raise more than $50 million in the next five years, with funding for the other half of the project coming from the State of Wisconsin. We hope to begin construction in 2019-20. This project will approximately double the size of our Small Animal Hospital, significantly improve our large animal facilities, and dramatically expand our basic wet laboratory space and infectious disease research space to maintain our leadership across campus and the nation in this important area of study.

As you make your way through this report and learn about our accomplishments from the 2014-15 fiscal year, you’ll find that we’re leading the way in many areas of veterinary medicine even as we wrestle with space constraints. While you read, I encourage you to imagine how much more we could accomplish with expanded boundaries, and please consider making a gift to our building addition.

Last, I thank you for all that you have done and will do to help make our school—your school—truly great.

Sincerely

Mark D. Markel, Dean
The school took a big step this year in advancing how it trains tomorrow’s veterinarians. Plans for a new student learning center were finalized and approved, and construction is slated to begin in early 2016.

This project will gut a major portion of the second floor on the south side of the Veterinary Medicine Building, repurpose underutilized storage rooms, and renovate limited study areas to clear the way for a completely reimagined, student-focused hub. The new learning center will help bring the school’s instructional facilities in line with the innovative teaching practices it has embraced during the last three decades since the building was constructed, including active learning exercises, case-based activities, flipped classrooms, and the incorporation of hands-on clinical experiences into earlier stages of the curriculum.

Innovation needs room to grow, and these enhancements will provide just that. Some highlights include:

**Expanded Clinical Skills Training Center**
Triple the size of the current center, it will enable students to practice core technical veterinary medical skills in a low-stress environment using models and other learning tools before performing procedures on live patients in the teaching hospital and other clinical settings.

**New Active Learning Space**
In this space, small group learning tables equipped with modern technology will support team-based problem-solving lessons, and it will serve as an informal study space in the evenings and weekends, currently a scarce resource for students.

**Counseling and Personal and Wellness Support Services**
An expanded space for wellness and mental health support will allow the school’s two part-time counseling psychologists to provide assistance to a greater number of students.

Other additions include a dedicated testing space to accommodate students who require an alternative testing date or location, a student study to complement the existing student lounge, a new reading room, a meditation room, and a kitchenette.

Success Stories In Brief

School Earns High Ranking

U.S. News and World Report once again recognized the UW School of Veterinary Medicine as a top leader in the field, ranking the school fifth among its peer institutions in the 2016 edition of “Best Graduate Schools.”

Student Debt Declines

For the second year in a row, average student debt among the school’s most recent graduates is down, declining this time by 4.2%. This is a hopeful sign of progress in decreasing debt burdens for alumni, and the $1 million in student aid the school distributed throughout the year no doubt helped.

Shelter Medicine Program Launched

The school has a long tradition of work in shelter medicine, from the development of vaccine protocols to outbreak prevention. But $1.3 million in gifts and pledges, including a lead gift from Jeff and Sara Wiesner, made possible the launch of a formal Shelter Medicine Program under the direction of Sandra Newbury, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Medical Sciences. The program will expand opportunities for veterinary medical students interested in the field through a shelter medicine rotation, an elective course, a week-long intensive “selective” course, clinical studies, consultation experiences, externships, and more.

Accreditation Update

The school completed a months-long accreditation self-study in preparation for an accreditation site visit from a review team from the American Veterinary Medical Association, a process each school of veterinary medicine must undergo every seven years. It was a tremendous success*, and the team raised no significant issues related to the study or visit.

*The school was fully re-accredited in September 2015.

Tablet Tech Enhances Dairy Education

Faculty and staff in the Food Animal Production Medicine program have developed eight iPad applications to help dairy farmers with a wide variety of activities, such as proper freestall construction for optimizing cow comfort and milk production and step-by-step instructions on assessing the respiratory health of calves. Faculty have incorporated the apps into clinical rotations for fourth-year veterinary medical students, who get first-hand field experience in some of the latest dairy technology.

Fast Facts

Average DVM Student Debt Load* Upon Graduation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>UW Avg.</th>
<th>Nat’l Avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$125K</td>
<td>$175K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$125K</td>
<td>$150K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$150K</td>
<td>$175K</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$150K</td>
<td>$175K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$150K</td>
<td>$175K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes debt incurred during prior undergraduate/graduate education.
**Average debt for 2015 graduates was $106,546, a significant decrease, but national numbers were not available when this report went to print.

Sources: UW-Madison Office of Student Financial Aid and American Veterinary Medical Association Senior Student Survey

Recent Class Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>APPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>1,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>1,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

>> For Class of 2019 facts, see p. 14.
In 2014-15, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine’s clinical arm, UW Veterinary Care (UWVC), handled nearly 24,000 patient visits, an unparalleled number in the history of the facility, which was built to accommodate 12,000 visits annually. The caseload for Emergency and Critical Care was particularly high, which pushed the unit to capacity and prompted UWVC to cease advertising for the service.

Much of this success can be traced back to skillful analysis and planning. Heading into this last year, UWVC completed a major strategic review of its caseload and resources, all driven by the school’s teaching priorities. The findings of the assessment helped school and hospital leaders make better decisions about the allocation of scarce resources in a challenging fiscal environment.

All of this led to a larger caseload and financial growth, which not only helps the hospital stay on solid financial footing but also helps animals and clients because the new revenue is reinvested in clinical services. For example, UWVC remodeled its pharmacy, adding more space and a larger window that makes transactions easier and meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The renovation also includes two large, sterile “clean rooms” with specialized ventilation systems that eliminate airborne contaminants. This improvement makes for even safer medications for patients. In addition to these benefits, a larger caseload is ultimately better for veterinary medical students because they can acquire valuable clinical experience with a wider variety of diseases and conditions.

Success comes with a price, however. Since the hospital now sees two times more patient visits than it was built to handle, space is tight. Underutilized areas have already been repurposed, and additional remodeling projects can only go so far, so UWVC and the school have set their sights on the future and an expanded facility (see p. 4-5).
Fighting Canine Flu

UW Veterinary Care (UWVC), in collaboration with the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, diagnosed the first case of canine influenza in Wisconsin during the Midwestern outbreak of the disease in spring 2015. In addition to treating the infected dog, UWVC experts responded by offering vaccination clinics for patients and providing guidance for shelters, pet owners, veterinarians, and the media.

Caring for the Most Vulnerable People and Pets

The WisCARES (Wisconsin Companion Animal Resources, Education, and Social Services) program launched in July 2014. In partnership with the UW School of Social Work and other services in Dane County, this innovative program provides holistic health care and housing support for Dane County’s disadvantaged residents and their pets. With the assistance of first- through third-year veterinary medical students, a full-time veterinarian manages walk-in clinics for pets at various locations. Social work students are also on staff.

One of a Kind Expertise

UW Veterinary Care (UWVC) is home to 23 different specialties, more than any other clinic in Wisconsin. In fact, UWVC is now the only clinic in the state to have a board-certified specialist in Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. In addition, for years, UWVC patients have benefitted from the expertise of Wisconsin’s only board-certified non-domestic zoological medicine specialist for exotic pets. As of this year, they have access to two.

Feline- and Exotic-Friendly Focus

To help make visits and wait times more pleasant for cats, exotic animals, and their owners, UW Veterinary Care created a dedicated space for these species. With the help of some generous donors, the hospital converted two conference rooms into a single suite containing a special, dog-free waiting room and two exam rooms featuring cat beds, bolted to the walls at waist level, that create safe, comfortable perches where felines can purr and nap to their hearts’ content.

Success Stories In Brief

Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Visits</td>
<td>21,063</td>
<td>21,202</td>
<td>20,870</td>
<td>22,376</td>
<td>23,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nik Hawkins (2)

Number of Patient Visits at UW Veterinary Care
The UW School of Veterinary Medicine continues to excel in both conducting research and in training future researchers. Two of the clearest indicators are the considerable growth in the school’s external research funding and its high-ranking graduate program.

Despite an increasingly competitive funding environment in the wake of federal budget cuts, the school has increased its external research support by nearly 60 percent in the last three years, from $16.6 million in fiscal year 2012 to $28.6 million in fiscal year 2015. This steady flow of grant money keeps the school’s faculty leading the way in research and discovery, and it continues to provide graduate students with the critical support of assistantships.

Given this funding picture, it comes as no surprise that the school’s Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program was once again ranked among the top 10 programs in the veterinary medical sciences discipline for its research productivity. This is the third year in a row that the program earned this distinction from Academic Analytics, which gathers and aggregates a variety of metrics, such as grant dollars earned and number of books or articles published by faculty, from nearly 400 U.S. institutions.

Not only is the school leading among its peers, its faculty are taking on leadership roles on the UW-Madison campus, one of the nation’s premier research institutions.

Albee Messing, professor of comparative biosciences, was named director of the Waisman Center, a campus hub of laboratories and other facilities dedicated to advancing knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases. Kristen Bernard, associate professor of pathobiological sciences, was elected chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and Tim Yoshino, professor of pathobiological sciences, was named Select Agents Responsible Officer for the entire campus. In addition, Dale Bjorling, professor of surgical sciences, and Chad Vezina, associate professor of comparative biosciences, played a major role in a campus-wide effort that garnered an $8.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish a research center focused on urological health, one of only three of its kind in the country.

Fighting Ebola

Ebola, and the health crisis it caused in West Africa and beyond, captured the world’s attention last year, but the school’s experts began working to combat the disease long before the outbreak. In fact, as a result of this work, a team led by Yoshihiro Kawaoka, professor of virology, and including Peter Halfmann, an associate scientist at the SVM, developed an Ebola whole virus vaccine that proved...
to be safe and effective in primates. And to further their research, Kawoaka, Halfmann, and SVM research fellow Alhaji Njai traveled to Sierra Leone during the height of the outbreak, braving quarantines and dangerous conditions to collect vital blood samples from patients.

Bolstering Companion Animal Health Research

The school continues to support faculty research projects that primarily benefit companion animal health through its Companion Animal Fund (CAF). This year, 12 different projects were selected to receive more than $110,000, the largest amount distributed in recent years. The funds will help SVM researchers test a new glaucoma treatment for cats, explore novel therapies for cancer in dogs, evaluate how the use of hoods to calm red-tail hawks can impact digestion, and more. External funding for these kinds of studies is limited, but the CAF grants can serve as seed money, which can lead to greater funding opportunities and research expansion down the road.

Making New Discoveries

Individually and as members of teams, our faculty and staff have contributed to a number of scientific advances this year, from identifying new targets for prostate cancer to developing innovative silver nanofilm wound dressings to using genome editing to come one step closer to a cure for an inherited neurological disorder. You can learn more about these discoveries and more at go.wisc.edu/svm-research-news.
Public Education and Service

This year, the school’s faculty and staff made vital contributions to the fight against a Midwestern outbreak of the canine influenza virus (CIV). Faculty at UW Veterinary Care, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL), diagnosed the first case of canine influenza in Wisconsin. In addition to treating the infected dog, they responded to the outbreak as a whole by offering vaccination clinics for patients and providing guidance for pet owners, veterinarians, and the media. Faculty at the WVDL were also part of a cross-institutional team that conducted tests to reveal that the CIV outbreak involved an Asian strain never before seen in the United States.

The school’s Shelter Medicine Program also responded to the outbreak by working directly with animal shelters in the Chicago area, where the outbreak began and was most severe, to establish quarantine protocols that allowed adoptions to continue safely. This kept shelters from getting overcrowded and resorting to euthanasia.

The school also stood on the front lines in responding to and understanding the H5N2 avian influenza virus that struck Wisconsin in spring 2015. Faculty at the WVDL provided critical testing for food producers and commercial and private flock owners. In addition, Yoshihiro Kawaoka, professor of virology, began testing the virus to better understand its potential impact on other species and studying how some chickens manage to survive infection despite its nearly 100% mortality rate.

Faculty and staff also made great efforts to share knowledge with the public. For example, the school and UW Veterinary Care held their biennial open house, which treated more than 1,000 visitors to an inside look at life-saving clinical care, world-class veterinary medical education, cutting-edge biomedical research, and the intricate connections between the health of animals and humans. Faculty and staff also engaged with veterinarians, prospective students, and the public at numerous events.

The school’s activities garnered a great deal of media interest throughout the year. The school and its personnel were cited in local, regional, national, and international media outlets more than 525 times, and Sandi Sawchuk, clinical instructor and primary care veterinarian, made dozens of appearances on local television and radio to field pet questions from the public.
A Sampling of SVM Public Appearances in 2014-15

Dog Paddle (Capital K9s Benefit)
Four Lakes Wildlife Center
Grandparents University at UW-Madison
Midwest Horse Fair
Open House at UW Veterinary Care and the School of Veterinary Medicine
Summer Enrichment Program (UW School of Education)

University Place on Wisconsin Public Television
UW-Madison Science Expeditions
Wisconsin Dog Fair
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention
World Dairy Expo
Wisconsin Public Radio
Wisconsin Science Festival

Sharing Knowledge
Faculty, staff, and students from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) engage with the public in a wide variety of venues throughout the year. For example, at Grandparents University (right), grandparents and their grandchildren come to campus to experience a “major.” SVM volunteers give many of these “students” the chance to learn what it’s like to be a veterinary medical student by exploring comparative anatomy, viewing blood samples under microscopes, studying X-ray films, handling preserved animal organs, conducting examinations of dogs, and more.

Volunteer Care for Wildlife
Faculty, residents, and students from the UW Veterinary Care Special Species Service continued to volunteer many hours at the local Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) Four Lakes Wildlife Center. They use their expertise to help the center provide a higher level of patient care for sick and injured wildlife and introduce center staff to new procedures, tests, and techniques. These efforts garnered the service the DCHS Volunteer Veterinary Support of the Year Award.
Class of 2019

88 students accepted out of a highly competitive pool of nearly 1,240 applicants [60 women & 28 men]

Students from the Class of 2019 come to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine from a wide range of geographic regions and more than 45 different undergraduate colleges and universities [in more than 20 states & Canada]

Academic Backgrounds of Enrolled Applicants

The students represent more than 20 different undergraduate majors.

These include the following:

- Animal Science
- Anthropology
- Bacteriology
- Biochemistry
- Biology/Biological Science
- Biomathematics
- Biomedical Science
- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Dairy Science
- Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Health Science
- Linguistics
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology
- Music
- Pre-Veterinary
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Zoology

Primary Areas of Interest

Students from the incoming Class of 2019 have a diverse range of interests, as indicated on their applications.

- Food Animal [22]
- Small Animal [31]
- Wildlife or Zoo Medicine [8]
- Equine [3]
- Avian/Exotics [3]
- Other* [12]
- Mixed Large & Small Animal [5]
- Research/Industry [4]

*Public health, lab animal, pathology, etc.
Financials

EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE
(in millions)

$58.8M

- Gifts $3.1M
- Grants $14.9M
- Program Revenue $16.6M
- Tuition $7.0M
- GPR* $17.2M

* State appropriations (less estimated tuition and fees)

EXPENDITURES BY PURPOSE
(in millions)

$58.8M

- Student Aid $1.3M
- Instruction $28.1M
- Other* $3.8M
- Research** $25.6M

* Student services, public service, and academic support
** Primarily research grants and contracts

% OF BUDGET FROM STATE SUPPORT

- 2010 - 29%
- 2011 - 29%
- 2012 - 29%
- 2013 - 29%
- 2014 - 31%
- 2015 - 29%

Giving

TOTAL GIFTS*

- Deferred Gifts & Pledges
- Fulfilled Gifts

*This chart only shows gifts made to the school through the UW Foundation and does not include gifts contributed through the UW Board of Regents.

TOTAL DONORS

- 2012: 2,462
- 2013: 2,554
- 2014: 2,540

Infographic by Ashley Voss
RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE

Awards and Honors Highlights from 2014-15

Each year, the school’s faculty, staff, and students receive numerous accolades in a broad variety of fields, as demonstrated by the list below. This is not a comprehensive list of awards and honors; it is a representative sample from the 2014-15 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). More at go.wisc.edu/svm-awards-honors.

Ian Duncan
Lifetime Excellence in Research Award
American Veterinary Medical Association

Julie Graf
Martha Casey Award for Dedication to Excellence
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Yoshihiro Kawaoka
Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award

Linda Schuler
Doris Slesinger Award for Excellence in Mentoring
University of Wisconsin–Madison

M. Suressh
Vilas Faculty Mid-Career Investigator Award
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Karen Young
Veterinary Clinical Pathology Hall of Fame
European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

A rare harpy eagle visits the UW Veterinary Care Special Species Service.
Thank You to Our 2014-15 Board

The Board of Visitors for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine serves as an external advisory body to the dean of the school. Members of the board have attained prominence in their respective careers and are chosen because of their value in providing sound advice and counsel to the dean. They provide valuable advice and counsel and contribute in many ways to the school’s success.

Read more about the board members at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/board-of-visitors.

John Baumann, BA ‘82
Monroe, Wis.

Evelyn Fryer
Carpentersville, Ill.

Sarah Weston Orr, BA ‘90
Lake Forest, Ill.

John Been*, DVM ‘88
Prairie du Sac, Wis.

Peter Hanson*, MS 1994, PhD 1997
Bristol, Wis.

Jill Pelisek
Milwaukee, Wis.

Cheryl Brickman
Mequon, Wis.

Janet Hoehnen
Milwaukee, Wis.

Janet Raddatz
Plymouth, Wis.

Debbie Cervenka
Winter, Wis.

Phil Jennings, JD ’93
Madison, Wis.

Thomas Torhorst, BS ‘65
Racine, Wis.

John Been*

Peter Hanson*

Janet Hoehnen

Phil Jennings, JD ’93

All degrees listed are earned from UW-Madison. * indicates alumni of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.
Among the 30 schools of veterinary medicine in the nation, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine consistently ranks among the Top 5 for excellence in clinical training, clinical service, and biomedical research.

SERVING OUR STATE’S VETERINARIANS
We have trained more than half of all the veterinarians in Wisconsin and serve as a resource and referral clinic for all.

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE
Our teaching hospital began with 10 specialties. Today, it provides more than 20 services, including Shelter Medicine, Special Species, Pain Management, and Equine Sports Medicine.

PREVENTING THE NEXT EPIDEMIC
We are a campus and world leader in influenza, Ebola, and other infectious disease research. In fact, the SVM is responsible for 75% of all infectious disease research conducted at UW-Madison.

TRANSFORMING THE DAIRY INDUSTRY
Our work with the livestock and dairy industries helps keep millions of animals healthy and productive — helping feed your family and the world.
For more than 30 years, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine has pushed the boundaries of animal and human medicine. We have developed countless therapies and technologies to treat injury and disease. Our work has reached from Wisconsin around the world, protecting economies, and helping to prevent pandemics.

To continue our groundbreaking work, we will need to break new ground.

AnimalsNeedHeroesToo.com
We thank the generous donors who provided funding for the production of this publication.