Special funds help SVM students with animal care

Students at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine never met Popcorn, a curly-haired Airedale terrier, or Bramber, a Sussex spaniel, but they now owe these two animals a special debt of gratitude.

The owners of both Popcorn and Bramber have endowed named funds in their dogs’ honor to benefit current SVM students. In the event of illness or accident, these funds will help students cover the cost of medical care for their animals. With an average debt load after graduation of more than $100,000, this financial assistance is a welcome relief for students.

Popcorn’s owner, Judith Jackman, established the Popcorn Fund in March 2000 to assist economically disadvantaged individuals with the cost of their animal’s veterinary care. She soon expanded the use of her fund to include SVM students. Sadly, Judith passed away last spring, but she continued her support of the Popcorn Fund with a gift from her estate. “Judith always wanted to help people care for their pets who were unable,” said Tim Jackman, Judith’s brother.

Judith rescued many animals over her lifetime. “She loved animals of any kind,” said her brother. “She made other donations in Popcorn’s name helping many people have a companion animal.”

Bramber’s owner, Susan Ipsen, a dog owner from Lake Forest, IL, “Having been a teacher, I am thrilled helping students. And I’ve always had a warm spot for veterinarians. I really appreciate what they do.”

Susan has made the two-hour drive to UW Veterinary Care many times with two of her dogs. She was impressed with the care she and her animals received. “I wanted to do something,” said Susan. “They gave me a tour and I learned all about the hospital. I was very impressed.” (In addition to the Bramber Fund, Susan has also adorned the front desk with fresh orchids to offer clients a little relief from the stressful experience of having a sick or injured animal.)

According to Dr. Ruthanne Chun, associate dean for clinical affairs and director of UW Veterinary Care, the school has always wanted to help students pay for veterinary medical care. “It is ironic that students come here and they are learning to be veterinarians but their limited financial resources mean they can’t afford care for their own animals,” said Chun. “Even if the students don’t come with a pet, they usually end up adopting one.”

“The students are really excited,” said Megan Ramaker, president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA). “Many of us know of students who really could have used it in the past.” SCAVMA will be in charge of the distribution of the funds under the guidance of the hospital’s administrative group.

For students facing the stresses of an intensive course of study and the financing of their veterinary medical education, even the smallest helping hand can make a big difference.
A gift in the garden for all to enjoy

Since its opening in January 2011, UW Veterinary Care has treated 67 cats and dogs with TomoTherapy, a radiation treatment that very precisely limits radiation to a tumor. For many cats and dogs, this treatment has added to both their quality and length of life.

Private support played a major role in helping the School of Veterinary Medicine build the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Clinic. This clinic addition was essential for making TomoTherapy available for pets in Wisconsin and beyond. The clinic includes a landscaped garden, greatly appreciated by the owners of animals presented to the clinic.

The following naming opportunities are still available in the clinic garden, and a gift in the garden is enjoyed by all: two garden benches ($10,000 each), one garden planter ($5,000), 24” x 24” pathway paver tiles ($1,000 each), and 12” x 12” pathway paver tiles ($500 each).

If you would like to make a garden gift, please contact Colin Nembr, Director of Development, School of Veterinary Medicine, at 608-263-7594 or colin.nemeth@supportuw.org.

PET TIPS

Winter horse inspection

If your horse is wearing a blanket this winter, don’t forget that a blanket hides most of the horse. Rub marks or injuries that need your attention could be lurking just out of sight under that blanket, so make sure to remove it frequently and give your horse a good all-over grooming.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT

Thanking You for Our Success

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the School of Veterinary Medicine’s annual donor issue of On Call, which is one way we recognize the many ways that you as donors have allowed the school to succeed and excel. Your gifts have made important and critical differences to the lives of our students, our patients, and our faculty and staff. In this issue, we highlight the results of a few of these gifts such as the Morrie Waud Student Support fund, which is designed to enhance our students’ day-to-day lives as well as provide scholarship support. This issue also highlights our many friends who give to UW Veterinary Care. This past year, these gifts gave rise to the building and opening of the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Clinic; the first of its kind in the county to feature the novel radiation therapy technology, TomoTherapy. It was only through your generosity that this facility came to fruition. Lastly, I want to emphasize the importance of your gifts to our Dean’s Annual Fund for Excellence. Gifts to this fund are critical for our continued success and our future excellence. The Dean’s Annual Fund allows the school to provide resources to areas of need or to fund critical opportunities that will further enhance the school’s excellence. Our donors give through estate gifts, annual gifts, fundraisers and as single large gifts, whichever path best suits their needs and desires. All gifts of any size are a valuable benefit to the school. Again, I want to thank all of you for your generosity to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. It is only through your passion and dedication that we continue to excel.

Mark D. Markel
Associate Dean for Advancement

Surgeon appointed new UW School of Veterinary Medicine research dean

Longtime professor Dale Bjorling has been named associate dean for research and graduate training at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Bjorling, professor of small animal surgery and member of the Department of Surgical Sciences since 1985, has a strong background in both facets of his new role, according to Daryl Buss, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

“He understands funding and research from the perspective of a principal investigator and as a department chair for more than 20 years,” Buss says. “He has also been very involved as a mentor and educator, leading two grants for the last seven years that have supported veterinary medicine students training to become researchers.”

Bjorling’s appointment follows the retirement of comparative biosciences professor Mary Behan.

University of California-Davis and the University of Georgia. He was elected president of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2009, and chairs the UW–Madison Athletic Board.

Veterinary researchers are always searching for funding, according to Bjorling.

“In that, we’re like almost any other unit on campus,” he says. “The school has been very fortunate in our numerous collaborations with investigators on campus. We need to continue to work on those partnerships, as well as acquiring and replacing shared equipment.”

Bjorling would like to add to the options afforded graduate students by bolstering training for veterinarians specializing in the care of research animals.

“There’s a need both locally and nationally for laboratory animal medicine, and we have an ideal situation here with the range of research programs and our veterinary school,” says Bjorling, whose own lab is working on the mechanisms of pain in bladder infections. “It’s a fairly specific discipline. Labs have some unique needs because of the very nature of research and the varying types of animals common to their work.”

Bjorling’s appointment follows the retirement of comparative biosciences professor Mary Behan.

“Mary has been a superb faculty member and — in recent years — an administrator,” Buss says. “She was very engaged at the campus level in shared governance, and has been a terrific contributor not just to the school, but the UW–Madison community as a whole.”

Chris Barnard
Dean Buss set to retire in June 2012

Daryl Buss has announced plans to retire from his position as dean and professor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine next June.

Buss has served as dean since 1994, when he left the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine after 15 years as chair of the Department of Physiological Sciences.

Just the second dean in the School of Veterinary Medicine’s history, Buss said it was a daunting task to take over from Dean Bernard Easterday, who helped establish the school. But in the relatively new school he found an exciting environment open to innovation.

“Administrators can make few things happen themselves,” Buss said. “But they can definitely get in the way of things happening. I’ve seen my role as facilitating the success of some very good people.”

Those successes include marked growth in both research expenditures and clinical activities.

“Looking at the number of cases we were seeing at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital when I arrived compared to what we see these days, the increase is just incredible,” Buss said.

Buss and his wife, Sharon, will pursue activities and interests that have been on hold for many years, he said. But the timing of his departure is particularly attuned to the needs and cycles of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

With a contentious budget process concluded, a sizeable number of faculty members set to retire over the next decade and re-accreditation scheduled for 2015, now is an opportune time to select the school’s third dean, according to Buss.

“We’re at a point where we need to revise and update, or devise a completely new, strategic plan,” he says. “That’s a process that would benefit from a new dean’s input, especially a dean that has had some time on the ground to get to know the school well.”

UW–Madison Day at the State Fair

Forget cream puffs and the Midway. The Wisconsin State Fair’s main attraction August 10, 2011 was Braveheart the dog.

Braveheart, who was rescued out of a Kentucky trash bin this spring and nursed back to health at the School of Veterinary Medicine, spent most of the day happily accepting ear scratches and belly rubs before leading the daily parade around State Fair Park, decked out in a handmade red sweater with a white “W” on his back.

While Braveheart may have stolen some of the show, the UW–Madison Day at the Fair included many on-stage events and more than 20 exploration stations from around campus. UW School of Veterinary Medicine volunteers Chuck Henrikson, Kalen Nichols and Samantha Morello shared their enthusiasm and expertise with the spectators.

Dean’s Annual Fund for Excellence

We, at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, would like to thank all of our stakeholders for contributing to our success. Among these stakeholders are our donors, who provide critically important financial support. You have helped make us one of the top veterinary schools in the country.

Now more than ever, we must work hard to be responsible stewards of our resources. To balance the needs of our programs with decreasing state budgets, we have made significant and difficult changes in recent years, such as cutting positions and programs. In addition, we constantly seek ways in which we can operate more efficiently.

We will continue to make tough choices in these difficult economic times, and your support is key in our drive to excellence. One important target for your support at this time is the Dean’s Annual Fund for Excellence. This Fund is the flexible resource that allows us to address unanticipated issues and opportunities, to reach a broader audience, to bring new clients into the hospital, to support communications that educate the public about our excellent programs and clinical care, and to build support for large projects that require support at many points and from many sources.

One example of a large program, catalyzed to a successful conclusion by the Dean’s Annual Fund for Excellence, is the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Clinic. It took three years and continuous effort to raise the $3.5 million to build the facility and purchase the TomoTherapy unit, which has already treated 67 patients.

We greatly appreciate the past support of the Dean’s Annual Fund for Excellence by many friends. We invite you to make a difference by making a gift as we create the future of veterinary medicine.

Visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/deansfund for more information.
New Faculty Join the School

Celina Checura, DVM, MS, PhD, has joined the Department of Medical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital as a clinical assistant professor in theriogenology. Dr. Checura earned her DVM at National University of Rio Cuarto, Argentina, her MS at Colorado State University and her PhD at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Checura is an equine reproduction specialist and her main clinical interest is assisted reproductive technologies in horses.

Dominique Keller, DVM, PhD, has joined the Department of Surgical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital as a clinical instructor in special species health. Dr. Keller earned her DVM and PhD at Texas A&M University. She completed her residency in Zoological Medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

Kelly N. Monaghan, DVM has joined the Department of Medical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital as a clinical Instructor in Small Animal Internal Medicine. Dr. Monaghan earned her veterinary degree at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. She then went on to Tufts University in Massachusetts to complete a Small Animal Rotating Internship and a Small Animal Internal Medicine Residency. Her clinical interests are in the areas of nephrology, lower urinary tract disease, and renal replacement therapies.

Ken Waller, DVM, MS, has joined the Department of Surgical Sciences and Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital as a clinical instructor of radiology. Dr. Waller earned his DVM at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and completed his residency at Iowa State University and his internship at Kansas State University. Clinical interests include contrast enhanced ultrasonography, magnetic resonance imaging, tumor imaging, interventional radiology, and advanced cross sectional imaging of large animal patients.

SVM Welcomes New Residents and Interns

In July, the School of Veterinary Medicine welcomed 17 new residents as well as eight new interns. The residents will spend the next three years gaining expertise in their chosen field in preparation for board certification. The majority of interns, who will be here for one year, will rotate between small animal medicine and surgery, and will enable the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital to offer walk-in emergency service for cats and dogs.

Residents

- Tamara Chamberlin, DVM
  Anatomic Pathology
- Sarah Churgin, DVM
  Exotic Animal/Zoo Medicine
- Jennifer Dreyfus, DVM
  Pathobiological Sciences (Resident 2010)
- Marie-Soleil Dubois, DVM
  Large Animal Surgery
- Joy Delamaide Gasper, DVM
  Neurology
- Kathleen (Kathy) Guthrie, DVM
  Small Animal Surgery
- William Oldenhoff, DVM
  Dermatology
- Xuan Pan, VMD, PhD
  Oncology
- Jessica Riehl, DVM
  Veterinary Dentistry
- Susannah Sample, DVM, MS, PhD
  Small Animal Surgery
- John Stein, DVM, MS, DACVIM
  Diagnostic Imaging
- Rory Applegate, DVM
- Evan Crawford, DVM
- James Newton, DVM
- Frances (Frankie) Hurrell, BVSc
- Darcie Kunder, VMD

Interns

- Karleen Kleemann is the new Development Specialist serving the SVM in the Medical Advancement Group at the UW Foundation.

Bad bones for dogs

Even though your pooch may beg his best at the Thanksgiving table, remember that turkey and chicken bones can be dangerous for your pet, splintering in his digestive tract and causing serious damage. Pick up something from the pet store before turkey-day to avoid the guilt trip, and don’t forget to keep that delicious smelling garbage bag somewhere safe.
A passion for science and animals helps the school and hospital

Evelyn Fryer’s earliest memory is riding in a street car holding an orange kitten hidden inside a shoebox. She and her dad picked up their first cat when she was three years old. “This was before we could afford a car,” said Evelyn. “I don’t think the cat would have been allowed on the street car, but I held it in the box on my lap.” So was born her passion for animals, felines in particular.

Many years later, Evelyn developed a second passion—science. Drawn to chemistry and biology in high school, she was fortunate to have teachers who guided her towards college.

This year, Evelyn solidified her passion for animals and science with a generous gift to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) and to the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Clinic.

In addition to her philanthropy, Evelyn is also a member of the SVM Board of Visitors. “It keeps me involved,” said Evelyn. “I am really in love with medical research, biology, all of that. This has been an opportunity to stay in the field.” It also is a great place for her to be an advocate for animals.

Presently, Evelyn has two cats and a parade of foster kittens. She is involved in her local shelter and helps socialize kittens, “I feel every child should be raised with some kind of animal, be it a cat, a dog, a horse or even a bird,” said Fryer. “It is a wonderful experience and teaches responsibility. I also think seniors should have some kind of companion animal, especially if they live alone.”

Evelyn believes strongly in taking good care of her animals. “After I brought my first kitty to the school’s hospital I was impressed,” she said. “That made my involvement more focused on what we could do for the clinic.”

When the school proposed bringing TomoTherapy to the hospital, Evelyn did her research before deciding to support this project. (TomoTherapy is a combination of a linear accelerator and a CT scanner, offering superior precision in the delivery of radiation to tumors.) Evelyn visited the TomoTherapy Company to learn about the equipment, she talked to veterinarians and scientists in cancer research about their plans, and she examined the business side. “It developed into a facility with a broader scope than the school first planned,” said Evelyn. “Because of radiation restrictions, it became an actual addition to the School of Veterinary Medicine rather than a room remodel.”

Ultimately Evelyn’s commitment to science and research was instrumental in the completion of the new clinic. At the clinic’s opening ceremony in April 2011, Daryl Buss, dean of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, introduced Evelyn and commented on her advocacy for cats. “Immediately after his comments a woman came up to me, gave me a hug, and said she was so happy I had the interest of cats at heart,” said Evelyn. “She then explained that her kitty was the first to be treated at the new clinic. We chatted and she gave me all the details of his treatment and his amazing progress. This is what giving is all about.”

Lori Strelow

Two SVM faculty earn prestigious professorships

Mark D. Markel, DVM, PhD, associate dean for advancement and chair of the Department of Medical Sciences, and Gordon Mitchell, PhD, chair of the Department of Comparative Biosciences and professor of neuroscience, were recently awarded named professorships.

Markel was appointed as a Vilas Distinguished Service Professor. This professorship recognizes faculty whose distinguished scholarship has advanced the confines of knowledge, and whose excellence has also included teaching or service. “Dr. Markel has contributed a high quality of scholarship in orthopedics research, while simultaneously providing superb leadership and service in his dual administrative roles as Chair of the Department of Medical Sciences and Associate Dean for Advancement,” said Daryl Buss, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

“His appointment as a Vilas Distinguished Service Professor appropriately recognizes his remarkable combination of breadth and quality of achievements.”

Mitchell was recognized as the Steenbock Professor in Behavior and Neural Sciences. Evelyn Steenbock endowed this and seven other professorships in honor of her late husband Harry Steenbock, emeritus professor of biochemistry, to provide flexible research support for outstanding faculty in the natural sciences. “This is a well-deserved recognition of Gordon Mitchell’s scholarly contributions,” said Martin Cadwallader, UW-Madison vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate school.

Both awards provide funding for research and scholarly activities.
Egg hunt reveals rare condition in parrot

Dr. Christoph Mans and UW Veterinary Care’s special species team are no strangers to the strange. But the case of Meeko, the Timneh African gray parrot, was a medical mystery. In what may have been the oddest egg-hunt ever, Mans and his team palpated, x-rayed, ultrasoned, and finally operated in search of the egg they thought Meeko was carrying. They then discovered that Meeko was harboring a fully-formed ectopic egg.

At 13 years old, Meeko had never laid an egg before, but her owners started to see some strange signs. “We noticed that she had picked her feathers for a brood patch,” said Tammy Smith, Meeko’s owner. “She wasn’t acting like herself.” They took her to the local veterinarian in Plover, who works with Mans and suggested they make a visit to UW Veterinary Care to have their questions answered.

In spite of the brood patch, Meeko was not trying to lay an egg, and a physical exam showed no evidence of one. “You couldn’t feel it at all when you were palpating,” said Julie Wenger, the 4th year veterinary student assisting with the case. The team ordered x-rays for a closer look.

“We took a radiograph and found a normal looking egg, which should usually be laid within 24 to 48 hours” said Mans. But though the egg on that x-ray was surprising, the real shock came a week later, when Meeko had still not laid the egg. The team ordered a new round of x-rays.

“The egg was actually flipped,” said Mans. “That’s when we started to wonder if the egg might not be in the uterus.” Mans explained that in its normal position protected in the uterus, an egg would not be able to flip end over end.

With no precedent for these symptoms, Mans theorized that the egg was ectopic, meaning it was outside of the uterus and would need to be removed. Once they were certain they could not induce Meeko to lay the egg herself, Mans scheduled surgery with Dr. Robert Hardie at the SVM.

What they found confirmed his theory; the egg was simply in the abdominal space, outside of the uterus. “This has only been reported sporadically in textbooks,” said Mans. “No guidelines for how to diagnose and manage ectopic eggs exist.” He explained that, even stranger, the perfect shape of the egg suggests it must have originally formed in the uterus and probably tore through the uterine wall.

What would have happened if they hadn’t taken x-rays and found the egg? “No one knows,” said Mans. Although Meeko didn’t seem distressed by the egg as it was, it might have posed a problem down the line. “She really had no clinical signs related to the ectopic egg,” said Mans. “She was eating, singing, and dancing. The egg may have been there for longer than we think.” But Meeko had no ability to lay the egg herself, and several potential issues, like trauma that might cause the egg to break, motivated Dr. Mans to operate. “We had to take it out as a precaution,” he said.

After surgery, Meeko recovered well, and her owners are glad to have their medical mystery solved. “We were very happy that we could solve this medical mystery,” said Smith. “We got a lot of answers, and we learned a lot, too.”

Ali Bartol
Carlee’s celebration of life helps others in need

On July 27, 2011, Patty Zallar hosted a celebration of life for her beloved guide dog, Carlee. Zallar and Carlee were an inseparable pair, thanks to Leader Dogs for the Blind, but Carlee was diagnosed with lymphoma this past spring and suffered a rare fatal reaction to chemotherapy drugs.

In honor of Carlee’s devoted service and extraordinary life, Zallar introduced Carlee’s HEART Project, Helping Every Animal Receive Treatment and Treats. She encouraged gifts in Carlee’s honor to several funds at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, the Community Action Coalition and Leader Dogs for the Blind.

“This is my way of giving back,” said Zallar. “This is all for Carlee. She touched my life and left a paw print on my heart.”

Carlee’s celebration demonstrated Zallar’s devotion, and the multitude of lives touched by a strong animal-human bond. At exactly 1:37 PM, the moment Carlee first came into her life, Zallar addressed Carlee’s well-wishers, including Carlee’s puppy raiser on speakerphone long-distance. Zallar spoke of the profound change Carlee made in her life, and the changes she hopes Carlee’s HEART Project will make for others.

Zallar hopes to give others the chance for a similar bond like hers. She chose to highlight the SVM Pet Pals program, bringing training therapy dogs to visit the American Family Children’s Hospital, the Animal Cancer Treatment Fund, benefiting cancer research and clinical trials, and the RESPOND fund, assisting low-income families with the costs of veterinary care. Zallar selected each fund for its dedication to keeping animal partnerships going strong for people from all walks of life who are facing all kinds of challenges.

Zallar will be paired with a new guide dog from Leader Dogs, but Carlee will always have a special place in her heart. “You don’t get over things like this, you work beyond them,” she said. Zallar hopes that these gifts made in Carlee’s honor can stand as a testament to her loving and devoted spirit, and make a lasting difference for others.

Ali Bartol

Uncovering mysteries at the zoo

On a routine Monday morning at the office, Kathleen Deering waits for a package. The unsuspecting bike courier is delivering a lot more than paperwork. Deering’s package contains infertile eggs from a Guam Kingfisher, a species of bird now extinct in the wild.

Dealing with a fascinating new species every day is just one of the job perks for Kathleen Deering, who is working in the Zoo Pathology Fellowship Program at the Milwaukee County Zoo. As the zoo’s pathologist, she performs necropsies and biopsies on any of the zoo’s 329 species that need her expertise.

The fellowship is the brainchild of Dr. Howard Steinberg, professor of anatomic pathology at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Annette Gendron-Fitzpatrick, director of comparative pathology at the Research Animal Resource Center. Working together with the Milwaukee County Zoo for many years, when they had an idea in the mid-1990s, for an advanced pathology program and submitted a proposal to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. “They have made a commitment to funding the program,” said Steinberg. “It’s a pretty substantial commitment: salary, overhead, as well as transportation to and from the zoo and cost of the samples that have to be processed.”

The benefits may be good, but the demands are high. Like the fellows before her, Deering needed two years of training in advanced pathology before starting the program. “Almost all of it is independent,” said Deering. But she is well prepared for the job. After 18 years in small animal practice, a love of exotic species caused her to seek a residency at the University continued on page 9
Peter Muir recognized for work in canine research

Dr. Peter Muir, a small animal orthopaedic surgeon at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, was honored at the American Veterinary Medical Association’s (AVMA) Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri where he received the AVMF/AKC Career Achievement Award in Canine Research Award, celebrating his long-term contributions to the field of canine research.

The award ceremony recognized Muir along with some of the nation’s top veterinarians, celebrating outstanding performance in their specialties and their devotion to improving the lives of humans and animals.

Muir’s skill in orthopaedics and his advances in canine research are recognized world-wide. His focuses include stress fractures in racing greyhounds, tendon and ligament diseases, and degenerative cranial cruciate rupture in dogs. At the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Muir is co-director of the Comparative Orthopaedic Research Laboratory, a multi-disciplinary effort directed at solving orthopaedic problems that plague both humans and animals. He has also served in leadership roles for the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Credentials Committee, the Journal Advisory Board for Veterinary Surgery, and the AVMA Council on Research.

The AVMF/AKC Career Achievement in Canine Research Award was established in 2009 by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF).

Dog overboard!

For most dogs, jumping from a boat into the water means clean doggie paddling fun. Unfortunately a three-year-old boxer named Charlie, chose the worst time to fall overboard: while the boat was still moving.

Charlie hit the propeller blade, and when her owners pulled her from the water, she was bleeding heavily from cuts on her leg. Rushed to a nearby emergency clinic in Spooner, Wisconsin, her prognosis was grim.

Charlie’s leg was badly broken in several places. “I asked if they could set her leg, and they said ‘No,’” said Tom Lewandowski, Charlie’s owner. Afraid of losing Charlie’s leg or worse, Lewandowski sought other options. “I talked to three different vets, and they all said to take her right to Madison.” So that’s exactly what they did.

Once at UW Veterinary Care, Charlie passed into the hands of Dr. Jason Bleedorn, a small animal surgeon who had different ideas about Charlie’s outlook. The situation looked bad; Charlie had large cuts exposing open fractures, and her leg was broken into four pieces, with many smaller fragments. Bleedorn knew that plates and screws would not work for this kind of injury. “You’re not going to be able to rebuild that fracture like a carpenter,” Bleedorn said.

Instead, he devised an alternative approach that combined x-ray guided surgery and an external method of securing the fractures. Using fluoroscopy, an imaging technique that obtains real-time moving images of the internal structure, Bleedorn tracked the different bone pieces and monitored the wound during surgery. “You can use the fluoroscopy to guide you,” said Bleedorn. “It was a perfect opportunity to use this technology.”

With fluoroscopy, Bleedorn placed eight pins in Charlie’s leg, but probably not in the way you would imagine. Pins protruded out from the different segments of bone, and were then fixed to a device outside Charlie’s body. This device, called an external skeletal fixator, consisted of a ring around Charlie’s thigh and a titanium rod running down her leg, providing her with stability so her bones could heal. The device had the added bonus of eliminating a bulky cast. For Charlie, this was a must, because her cuts from the propeller blade required easy access for frequent attention.

Bleedorn said the one downfall of the external fixator is the maintenance. “It takes a lot of aftercare by the owners,” said Bleedorn. “But these owners were great.”

Charlie is healing, with the help of the Lewandowskis’ care. “My wife has to clean the pins of the apparatus,” said Lewandowski. “It’s a three times a day situation.” But Charlie is getting back to her old self. “She can’t do the things she wants to do, but her energy level is more back to normal,” said Lewandowski.

Dr. Bleedorn is hopeful that given more time, Charlie will be able to lose the external fixator altogether, transitioning to a smaller brace before finally having all four paws back on the ground.

Ali Bartol

Charlie’s leg was broken in four large pieces with many smaller fragments. The surgeons at UW Veterinary Care used an external method of securing the fractures.
Curiosity and generosity helps students succeed

Morrie Waud’s generosity is well known to the veterinarians, clients, and patients of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. His gifts to the Fund for Equine Excellence and his grant to establish the UW Morrie Waud Equine Center demonstrate his pride in supporting the SVM and advancing equine science. But his most recent gift creating the Student Support Fund will benefit the driving force that makes all that science possible: the students.

“I just can’t fathom the idea of how these students can, in four years, come out as doctors,” said Morrie. His goal with the Student Support Fund is to help veterinary students during this demanding time. This gift will provide scholarships for financial support and funding to student activities like awards, celebrations, and events. Morrie’s gift will even include things like gift cards to students for movies, food, or gas, allowing them to take a break from academic and financial demands.

“I’m donating for the betterment of the kids,” said Morrie.

With this new philanthropic effort, Morrie hopes to start a new relationship with the veterinary students he so admires, attending classes with the entering class of 2015. “I like to call it ‘Adopt a Class,’” said Morrie. “I will follow the same class all four years. I just want to see how they do it.”

Morrie plans to attend lectures, labs, and even social events; he’s already contacted the Equine Club about joining up this fall.

Brad Jolin, managing senior director of development–Medical Advancement Group, commended Morrie for his hands-on approach. “He wants to have a closer connection with the students,” said Jolin. “I think it will help him be even more connected to the school.”

Morrie’s passion for horses and his relationship with the SVM created a tradition of generosity that will leave its mark on the school and its students for years to come.

Mysteries continued from page 7 of Connecticut, resulting in her position in the zoo pathology program. “I’ve always been interested in wildlife and endangered species,” said Deering. Now she sees the same diseases from her clinic days, but on the microscopic level and in every imaginable species, from penguins, octopuses, and snow leopards, right down to fish and anemones.

As Dr. Steinberg explained, every animal that dies at a zoo needs to undergo a necropsy. “We need to know why the animal was sick, why it died, and are other animals at risk,” he said. This forms the main task of the zoo pathologist. “Most of what they do is necropsies for animals who die in the course of living, so to speak.”

According to Steinberg, animals at a zoo are different from family pets in that they are part of a collective. Any risk to an individual might also mean a risk to others in the herd, school, or flock, or even the whole zoo community.

In the case of the Guam Kingfishers, the zoo was sniffing out a potential problem. “We do necropsies on eggs,” said Deering. “We’re looking to see why so many of them don’t hatch.” Although the eggs were likely infertile, meaning the reason for not hatching was natural, there is a chance that the eggs carried unborn chicks that died for other reasons.

Deering explained that the artificial incubation used by zoos is a tricky process to perfect. “It’s difficult no matter how much you know about the requirements of the species,” she said. Factors like temperature, humidity, and the turning of the eggs must be carefully monitored. Her necropsy of a penguin egg once revealed a penguin chick carried nearly to term, but caught at an awkward angle. “It was probably related to turning,” said Deering. “I can help with management, in that case.” With new information from Deering constantly flowing in, the zoo is able to stay informed about their animals, and update their practices if necessary.

The zoo isn’t the only one bombarded with new information. “You learn something every time you do a case,” said Deering. “You can’t possibly know everything about every species going in. That’s the fun and the challenge of it.” For Deering, being exposed to such a variety of animals is a treat, learning every step of the way. “I do a lot of research,” she said.

Deering will spend the remainder of her two years keeping the Milwaukee County Zoo up to date. According to Deering, the fact that Steinberg, Gendron-Fitzpatrick, and the zoo maintain this program is a testament to their devotion. “The Milwaukee County Zoo is phenomenal in terms of how they take care of their animals,” said Deering. She hopes that her next step into the animal kingdom will allow her to give back. “I would like to make some contribution to exotic animal conservation,” said Deering. “I was fortunate enough to go to Africa, and I would love to go back.”

Put a Little Hope in People’s Stockings

What a great stocking stuffer—a bright red UW Veterinary Care Hope Against Cancer bracelet and an added bonus of giving a donation to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Show your support for the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Center by sporting one of these bracelets yourself and sharing others with friends and family. These bracelets can be purchased in the lobby of the Small Animal Hospital or by mail (postage is $4.85 for flat rate priority mail). The $5.00 donation goes directly to the Frank and Evelyn Fryer Radiation Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation Center. They make great gifts for your animal-loving family and friends. If you would like to order your bracelets through the mail please contact the school’s Office for Advancement at 608-265-9692 or email Kristi Thorson at kvthorson@vetmed.wisc.edu.
Veterinary Clinic Sponsorships Benefit the School

The good feeling generated when clients learn that their veterinarian cared enough to donate to the School of Veterinary Medicine in their deceased animal's name is rewarding in itself. But veterinary clinics around Wisconsin and neighboring states that participate in the Companion Animal Fund Sponsor program get the added bonus of knowing that these funds benefit Wisconsin's only veterinary medical school.

The school thanks the following veterinary clinics for their generous participation in this program between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

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Animal Hospital Of Ashwaubenon
Appanasha Clinics SC
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Russell Veterinary Hospital
Thiensville-Mequon Small Animal Clinic
Token Creek Veterinary Clinic
Whitewater Veterinary Hospital
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We’re Grateful for Donations Made Between July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

In this issue of On Call, we list individual and corporate gifts of $100 or more made between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Veterinary medical clinics that sponsored the Companion Animal Fund during that time are listed separately as well as alumni of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Science and Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate programs. We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed. Your donations make a difference in the lives of animals, and sometimes benefit human health as well. Whether funds are used for studies to better animal health, to ease the financial burden for students through scholarship funding, or to improve the school’s facilities so we can better serve our public, they go a long way toward maintaining the school’s reputation for excellence.

We’ve made every effort to ensure this list is accurate. If there are errors, we apologize, and encourage you to call the Office for Advancement at 608–265–9692 with corrections.

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I have told so many of my friends and family about how wonderful all the doctors and staff are! Thank you.

Special Thanks for Legacy Gifts

Estate pledges, in the form of bequests, trusts, or wills, are another way to make a positive impact on the school. The following individuals (both living and deceased) have either pledged support for the school through an estate gift, or an estate gift has come to fruition in their name. For more information on how to arrange a legacy gift to benefit the School of Veterinary Medicine, contact Colin Nemeth at the UW Foundation (608-263-7594).

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continued on next page
**Hospital shares its wish list**

Hospital income cannot always cover all the desired improvements needed. If you would like to help UW Veterinary Care enhance client services, please consider making a gift directed to the following equipment and service needs. UW Veterinary Care will match gifts for the items listed below. Contact Colin Nemeth for more information at 608-263-7594 or visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu/wishlist.

**Vitek Automated Microbiology System $60,000 ($30,000 will match)**

Our current microbiology system will no longer be serviceable after December 2011 because of its age. The improved microbial identification technology that a Vitek Automated System instrument offers will increase our ability to accurately identify bacteria that cause disease in a variety of animal species.

**Thromboelastograph Hemostasis Analyzer $35,000 ($17,500 will match)**

Successful treatment of diseases involving abnormal blood clotting relies on accurate and timely diagnosis. This instrument provides a systemic view of clotting and would enhance our diagnostic capability by offering a sophisticated method of analyzing blood to guide diagnosis and management of serious bleeding and clotting disorders.

**Siemens Fluoroscopy Unit $150,000 total ($75,000 will match)**

Fluoroscopy is used extensively for urinary, neurologic, and gastrointestinal studies, as well as for making x-rays of large dogs or other animals such as sheep, llamas, foals and calves. Because of the age of our current fluoroscopy unit, image quality has deteriorated and replacement parts for the unit are no longer available. A new fluoroscopy unit would improve the interface with our digital radiography system and enhance image retrieval, presentations, and long-term archiving.

**Diagnostic Stago STA Compact Coagulation Analyzer $38,000 ($19,000 will match)**

State of the art coagulation testing now includes the evaluation of several individual blood clotting proteins to permit accurate diagnosis and prognosis, as well as to help manage serious disorders of blood clotting.

**$500–$999**

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**ON CALL NEWSLETTER**

We get the On Call newsletter and really enjoy reading the articles, and I thought you might like to know how much we appreciated the care and treatment that we received when we really needed it.
THANKS FOR HELPING

Drinking and eating again, thanks for helping
Vegas get better!

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Vegas get better!
again, thanks for helping

STILL GRATEFUL

We are still grateful for the care and additional
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who received DNA
Gene Therapy in the early 90’s.

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continued on next page
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Several years ago my dog was treated in your program for hemangiosarcoma. He did not survive this horrible disease, but your program aided him.

I would like to see other animals receive the same treatment.
Special Thanks to Cumulative Donors

Donations to support the School of Veterinary Medicine are always welcome. But the school is especially grateful to those donors who have supported the school at a high level, whether they’ve done so in one lump sum or through a combination of gifts and pledges over the years.

Consistent support at this level provides the margin of excellence in our teaching, research and service and also serves to attract others to the cause.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions the following donors have made toward our overall excellence as well as to specific endeavors between 1982 to the present (includes gifts and pledges).

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Understanding West Nile Virus

The West Nile virus casts a broad net of influence, entwining itself in the mosquitoes that transmit it, the birds that carry it, the animals and people that are affected by it, and the environment it spreads through. But to understand that complex picture, you need to understand the virus itself. Dr. Kristen Bernard, an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, is using her research to untangle the functions of West Nile virus.

“I’m trying to understand how the virus causes disease,” said Bernard. “What I want is to understand each step of what the virus is doing in the body.”

The virus, first seen on the east coast in 1999 before spreading rapidly across the US, is an arthropod (insect)-borne virus. Although not common in Wisconsin, West Nile presents a serious threat as it has no known treatment. The virus cycles between mosquitoes and birds, then spreads when an infected mosquito bites a healthy animal. According to Bernard, some are more affected than others, with humans, horses, and some types of birds hit the hardest. “Crows are exquisitely sensitive to the virus,” said Bernard. “Other animals can become infected, it’s just not very common. Dogs, wolves, alpacas—there was an outbreak in alligators in 2002.”

But the common thread among all these species is one tiny buzzing insect. “In nature, there isn’t any vertebrate to vertebrate transmission,” Bernard said. “You need to have that mosquito.”

Using a mouse model, Bernard is examining what happens after that mosquito bites. This includes interactions between the body, the virus, and even the mosquito saliva. Her work is yielding interesting findings. “We get more virus replication when there’s mosquito saliva there,” said Bernard. She explained how this might indicate the presence of a protein in the saliva that changes the impact of the virus. “The long-term idea is, if you could identify that protein, you could make a vaccine.”

Bernard’s work is also taking steps towards understanding the lasting effects of West Nile on the body. “It’s typically thought that West Nile infects the host, the host mounts a response, and then it’s gone,” said Bernard. But her research shows that West Nile can linger, especially in the brain, long after the animal recovers from the illness. She explained that the body’s immune system is responsible for eliminating the virus, but too strong of an immune response can actually damage the body’s healthy tissue, especially sensitive tissue like the brain. “That’s the fine line the body’s walking down,” said Bernard. “In this case, it’s an advantage to the virus.” The body protects the brain, and accidentally leaves some virus behind.

But what’s the difference if you carry the virus around with you, as long as you’re not sick? According to Bernard, it makes all the difference in the world to someone who receives an organ donation or a blood transfusion from a previously infected donor, and the recipient may become dangerously ill even if the donor showed no symptoms at all.

For Bernard, this research is all about digging into the fundamental functions of the virus. She hopes that her research will pave the way for future advances in West Nile prevention and cure, with a better understanding of the disease itself. “I want to do the basic research with the goal that it will be useful in human and veterinary medicine,” said Bernard.

Ali Bartol
Married alumni make the most of the SVM

Do you believe in a storybook life? You meet someone, fall in love, marry, go to veterinary school, and start both a practice and a family together. Doug and Kim Kratt seem to have that storybook life, but they believe more in hard work and tough choices.

Kim wanted to be a human doctor, and Doug wasn’t sure what he was going to do with his biology and chemistry background. But then he met with Jo Oswald, the admissions director for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), and his course shifted “She thought I would be a good candidate for the SVM, and I applied,” said Doug.

Kim was two years behind Doug and was considering human medicine or pharmacology. She had been to the medical school’s open house, but when she joined Doug at the SVM’s open house, she was impressed. “I really liked the atmosphere,” said Kim. “I am happy with my decision, without question.”

That happy coincidence resulted in a partnership and, in 1996, the Kratts married. Doug was a third-year student, and Kim was entering her first year. The Kratts soon realized that there were both benefits and challenges with the distance in their academic years.

“I actually think it was an advantage having him ahead of me,” said Kim. “I loved hearing about all he was doing, his cases, and what the outcomes were. I probably drove him crazy with all the questions. It was great because I learned so much, and some of it a bit earlier than I would have been taught. Hopefully he learned more too from having to explain it to me.”

But the fact that Doug was two years ahead of Kim was difficult at times. He moved back to La Crosse to start a practice while Kim entered her third year.

“I would travel home every chance I got, as he was frequently on call and rarely could get away,” said Kim. “Sometimes I would drive five hours for 24 hours at home, but it was worth it. It’s never easy to go more than a month without seeing your spouse, but this allowed me to really concentrate on studies, and I could take more shifts my fourth year without worry of missing family time.”

Making good use of time in school was a priority for both Kim and Doug. Kim’s best advice for students, including first-year students, is to go to pathology rounds every day possible. “I learned so much,” said Kim. “I went all four years. I learned a lot about large animals, even though I was a small animal student. I remember seeing a cow with a bloat line on an esophagus and I recalled that information on an exam. I discovered I could answer questions on exams my friends couldn’t and it was from path rounds.”

Doug’s words of wisdom are words he follows to this day. “You worked hard to get into veterinary school, you’ll work hard after, so work hard now. Try to learn as much as you can.”

One of the things Doug learned about while in school was the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA). As a student, he became a member of the WVMA and vice president of the Wildlife, Exotic, and Zoo Animal Medicine Club (WEZAM). After graduation, he became president of his local veterinary medical association. When an opening for district representative became available, WVMA approached him to accept the position. Eventually, Doug assumed the role of WVMA president. During his tenure with the WVMA, he helped develop a strategic plan for the organization, revamped its committee structure, dealt with informed consent and public education, and lobbied for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to move onto campus.

In addition to his involvement with the WVMA, Doug had a practice to run. He purchased the Central Animal Hospital, located in Onalaska, Wisconsin, after graduation. Both he and Kim run the clinic with a third veterinarian, Robert Forbes, who is a 2006 SVM graduate. The practice is a full service, AAHA accredited, companion animal practice, which includes surgery and ultrasonography/echocardiography.

The Kratts still stay in touch with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. “I have always felt I could contact faculty,” said Doug. “And it isn’t always about a case, but sometimes to talk about a direction I’m going in.”

Kim echoed those sentiments. “They have all been extremely receptive,” said Kim. “They are always happy to help whether it is about a client or which is the best microscope to buy.”

The Kratts continue their storybook life, one written with hard work and determination, and have now added several new characters to their adventure. In addition to their practice, they enjoy time with their son, daughter, two cats, and a new puppy.
Holiday card benefits animals

The animal-lovers in your life are sure to appreciate a gift that benefits animals.

For a suggested donation of $10 per card, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine will send your family, friends, and neighbors a full-color holiday card with a special message noting that a donation in your name has been made to the School to support projects that improve animal health.

Each year, a different artist donates artwork for the SVM holiday card. This year’s artwork, “Winter Morning” was donated by Georgene Pomplun, a local artist living in rural Dane County.

Winter Morning

Georgene Pomplun and her husband Tom live with their dog Mojo in an old farmhouse in rural Dane County, so inspiration abounds at every turn. The beautiful old barns of central and southern Wisconsin are favorite subjects, and her neighbors’ horses and cows are patient and willing models. Georgene’s work can be seen at the Fanny Garver Gallery in Madison and at the Edgewood Orchard Galleries in Door County, or online at www.fannygarvergallery.com and www.edgewoodorchard.com.

Offered for a suggested donation of $30, print quantities are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both cards and prints make ideal holiday gifts for veterinarians, friends, family, people’s pets, or for anyone who loves animals.

Order forms for the holiday card and print can be downloaded at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/holidaycard or contact the school’s Office for Advancement at 608–265–9692.

In addition to the holiday card, a limited edition print featuring a different work of art by Georgene Pomplun will be available. This 14.5” x 12” print, “Early Morning Hilltop Conversation,” will be signed and numbered by the artist.

Georgene Pomplun also donated the artwork for this year’s Limited Edition Holiday Print available from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. The oil painting is titled “Early Morning Hilltop Conversation.”