



The class of 1956 celebrates 50 years as graduates of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

A Celebration of Alumni—Five Decades

Alumni of the School of Veterinary Medicine classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1996 and their families returned to UC Davis September 16 to celebrate Alumni Day, followed by the school's Fall Symposium on Recent Advances in Clinical Veterinary Medicine September 17 and 18.

Jerry Kaneko ('56), Barry Rathfon ('66), Lynn McEwan ('76), Joe Thibedeau ('81), Joie Watson ('86), and Mary Beth Whitcomb ('96) led the reunion planning committees for their respective classes. Alumni Day festivities included local and campus tours, lunch with the dean and a barbecue dinner.

Members of the class of 1956, celebrating 50 years since earning their DVM degrees, attended a special dinner in their honor and carried on the tradition of the Rose Ceremony, a solemn reflection in celebration of their veterinary careers and in memory of their deceased classmates. The class has been holding annual reunions for the last 25 years.

Because the School of Veterinary Medicine and the profession have been such an important part of their lives, several alumni organized class gifts to the school to foster continued excellence in educating veterinarians and veterinary scientists.

The class of 1956 presented Dean Osburn with a gift of \$35,000, directed toward construction of the new Gladys Valley Hall and its MPVM computer lab. The class of 1966 presented the school with a class gift of \$15,000 directed toward completion of the new group study room in Valley Hall.



During the Rose Ceremony, each class of 1956 graduate in attendance was recognized, and each deceased classmate was remembered and honored.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

K-9 OFFICER TAZ WALKS AGAIN AFTER INJURY

Taz, a K-9 officer for the Sacramento Police Department until an on-the-job fall last April paralyzed his hind legs, is now walking unaided, says Jackie Woelz, MS, PT, who heads the school's Physical Rehabilitation Service in the Center for Companion Animal Health.

The 7 1/2-year-old German shepherd, who has exhibited his skills at Picnic Day the last two years, had surgery April 18 at the school's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital to relieve pressure on his spinal cord caused by a herniated disc. The dog, along with his human partner, Officer Hans Merten, then began



In the early stages of rehabilitation, Taz needed assistance to stand or walk on a treadmill. He now walks independently.

working with Ms. Woelz, a licensed physical therapist who specializes in animal rehabilitation.

"Taz is doing much better, and is walking independently," says Ms. Woelz. "He had a very serious injury. At first he had to be held up to stand, and needed assistance with every step—at one phase walking with the aid of a cart to

support his hindquarters. He has steadily progressed through a program of training and strengthening. He's redeveloped great muscles for strength and balance, and appears to be really happy."

Taz is now in therapy with the underwater treadmill, training against resistance and working to develop good postural control.