

IN THIS ISSUE

**WEST NILE VIRUS, HORSES
STILL NEED VACCINATION**

4

**UC DAVIS CELEBRATES 100TH,
SCHOOL CELEBRATES 60TH**

5

**ANIMAL WELFARE TRAINING
INSTITUTE BEGINS WORK**

6

**THANK YOU NOTES: ALUMNI
AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

7

**NEW DNA TEST FOR GENETIC
EQUINE BRAIN DISEASE**

8



Budget Cuts Threaten Veterinary Medicine Programs and Services

The seriously reduced budget—and further cuts proposed by the California governor—represent the largest threat to our programs that I've experienced in 40 years on the School of Veterinary Medicine faculty," says Dean Bennie Osburn.

Over the last 17 years state support for the University of California has decreased by 40 percent due to budget cuts and inflation. The 2008 cuts now facing the school are too deep to be able to maintain the current level of operations. The school already has 30 vacant faculty positions that, in spite of programmatic need, cannot be replaced.

"We won't be able to do everything we are currently doing, and all aspects of our program are under the microscope for re-evaluation," says Executive Associate Dean John Pascoe. "Our challenge is to identify those areas that we can shrink or eliminate without irreparably harming our teaching, service and research mission."

Shifting the Burden to Students

In the fall quarter of 1994 the California legislature began mandating higher tuition for students in professional degree programs including veterinary medicine. Since then, veterinary students have had to assume a 283 percent increase in tuition. The school

Continued on page 2

WILDLIFE HEALTH

RACING TO SAVE THE CHEETAH

The cheetah is the fastest animal on land, but wildlife conservationists are the ones racing to save the cat from extinction. Fewer than 15,000 cheetahs survive in the wild, and approximately 1,400 captive cheetahs exist around the world.

Reproductive medicine specialist Autumn Davidson and principal ultrasonographer Tomás Baker of the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital have worked several years with an international team of scientists to improve reproduction in captive cheetahs as a strategy to protect the rare species and its genetic diversity. The anatomy and hormonal makeup of cheetahs have presented numerous challenges.

In September, Davidson used a nonsurgical method to successfully inseminate three cheetahs at the Wildlife Safari of Winston, Ore. Once refined, the procedure may also make embryo transfer possible. Baker evaluated the reproductive tract morphology of older female cheetahs at the park. He uses ultrasonography to determine when ovulation is imminent in order to harvest oocytes for eventual in vitro fertilization.



Dr. Karen Shapiro, Aisha Young, class of 2010, and Darlene Riel, RVT, do a postoperative incision check and pain assessment as part of the DVM curriculum.

Veterinary technicians are an integral part of the school's clinical and teaching mission.

—Story on page 3

TRANSITIONS, NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NAMED

James S. Cullor, director, and the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center (VMTRC) staff welcomed **Terry Lehenbauer** as associate director October 15. His arrival in Tulare is as much a homecoming as a career move. Lehenbauer completed a food animal residency as well as MPVM and PhD degrees at UC Davis and spent more than 10 years as a California dairy practitioner before being appointed at the VMTRC.

Lehenbauer will be responsible for overseeing academic programs addressing livestock and poultry diseases, food safety and food defense, bioterrorism and biosecurity. He will work closely with producers to develop research and training programs. Lehenbauer carried out studies of the economics of dairy health and production as a faculty member at Oklahoma State University.

James Reynolds, who has worked at the VMTRC for more than 10 years, began a new position in July as the service chief of the On-Farm Clinical Medicine

Program. Reynolds is developing opportunities for veterinary students to observe on-farm welfare assessments and learn the role of third-party audits to verify humane practices for animals in production settings. He is seeking regional dairy producers to participate. "Our overall goal is to understand and improve the relationship between individual animal health, food supply personnel and the herd to ensure animal health and well-being, food safety and public health," says Reynolds.

John Champagne, the VMTRC Dairy Production Medicine clinician since October, is also familiar with Tulare. He operated a mobile veterinary practice in the area for several years after completing a dairy production medicine residency and an MPVM degree at UC Davis. Most recently, Champagne served in a dairy practice in Pennsylvania. He will provide services to care for client animals and supervise students during clinical rotations in Tulare.

Budget Challenges

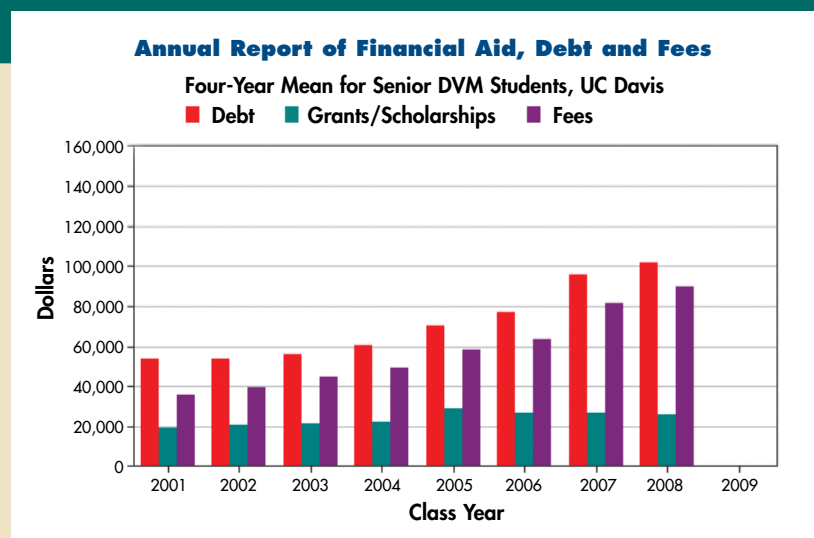
Continued from page 1

responded to the increases with additional efforts to raise endowments for scholarships, but students have had to borrow more money.

Debt levels for 2008 graduates were 78 percent higher than for those graduating five years earlier, while during the same period, salaries were reported to be only 59 percent higher. With lower salary scales, veterinary students have less capacity than other professional graduates such as physicians, dentists and nurses to repay their higher debts, yet the school has lobbied unsuccessfully for lower tuition.

Historically the majority of graduates have been able to repay their student debt within 10 years of commencement; however, today many have 30-year loan repayment periods.

"This impacts their ability to start families, purchase homes and become partners in practices," says Dean Osburn. "Many graduates have had to abandon their preferred careers in rural large animal practice or other underserved areas in order to achieve an income level sufficient to retire their debt. We are very worried about their ability to pursue careers in academic medicine, specialty practice, government service, research and other areas in critical need of veterinarians."



The Profession's Vital Service

Californians have sophisticated expectations for veterinary medicine for diagnostic and therapeutic programs. The school offers more educational opportunities than other colleges to meet this demand, and more University of California, Davis, graduates remain in their home state to establish careers than graduates of any other veterinary program in the United States.

UC Davis has been at the forefront of changing the face of veterinary medicine for 60 years. During those six decades, your support has been essential to the school's ability to make advances in animal health.

Today we continue to need your action—to remind policymakers about the importance of modern veterinary medicine to the state and its citizens, and to help identify individuals who

might have an interest in financial and other support for the school. Gifts and bequests to fund faculty positions, student scholarships, clinical services and teaching programs are essential to the school's operation.

Influence and financial support are equally important in continuing the tradition of excellence at UC Davis.

The school is positioned to continue its leadership in DVM education, residency training and discovery—of the next vaccine, diagnostic test or treatment—to meet the present and future needs of California's people, animals and environment.

With your help we can minimize the long-term impact of the cuts on our programs and services.

Discussions continue schoolwide. Watch for an update in the next edition of Veterinary Medicine News.

Veterinary Technicians Provide Leadership, Compassion and Sophisticated Skills

In the cancer clinic of the Center for Companion Animal Health, two technicians dressed in signature green scrubs administer chemotherapy drugs to a dog. Down the hall, a technician prepares a horse for radiation therapy. In the imaging suite, a technician positions a cat for an MRI while a co-worker monitors the technology. In the surgical suite of the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, nearly a dozen techs bustle around two cats undergoing a kidney transplant procedure. In the wards, veterinary technicians give medications, draw samples and care for the needs of their patients. When not with patients or consulting with clinicians, the techs work closely with clients to communicate how pets are doing, explain procedures and provide instructions for home care after an animal leaves the hospital.

Hospital Director W. David Wilson says, “We are blessed to have such a capable and dedicated veterinary nursing staff. Each member of our technician team supports the hospital’s clinical and teaching missions with experience, sophisticated skills and extraordinary compassion.”

Harold Davis, BA, RVT, and Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) in Emergency & Critical Care, says that of 156 career veterinary assistants and technicians at the teaching hospital, 78 trained in an accredited program and passed California’s licensing examination to become registered veterinary technicians.

All veterinary technical staff engage in a rigorous ongoing training program. Many have been in the veterinary field for more than 20 years, and Harold Davis is notable for his more than 25 years of service at the teaching hospital. Now a supervisor, he is also the first veterinary technician to become president of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, a national organization. Davis and many other coworkers not only serve as talented technical support staff, but also provide instruction and promote continuing education in specialties such as critical care, anesthesia and internal medicine (see sidebar).

Technicians’ Teaching Mission

Veterinary technicians play a vital role in assistant teaching. “Most of us have teaching as a component of our position description,” says Davis. “Even in clinics, when showing a student how to perform a procedure such as a catheter placement, it is considered teaching.”

Darlene Riel, manager of the Gourley Clinical Teaching Center, says, “In the Gourley Center, where many hands-on pre-clinical teaching laboratories take place, technicians assist the faculty in instruction on a variety of species—dogs, cats, horses, sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, small mammals, iguanas, ferrets and avian species. Veterinary technicians aid students in learning aseptic techniques, animal handling techniques, biological sample collections, urinary and venous catheterizations, injections and medical treatments, anesthesia equipment and monitoring, dentistry instrumentation and procedures, imaging (radiographs and ultrasound), suture knot tying techniques and medical diagnostic procedures.”

Whatever the task, the school’s veterinary technicians provide expertise and dedicated support to animal wellness and veterinary education.



Angelina Gerardo (DVM 2008) and Raquel Coleman, RVT, prepare a dog to be neutered during the Community Surgery clinical rotation.

RVT Leadership Builds Specialty Certification

Technicians who qualify in any of five recognized technician specialties—behavior, dentistry, emergency and critical care, anesthesia, and small and large animal internal medicine—may use the title Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS).

School leaders Harold Davis and Craig Cornell, RVT, VTS (Emergency & Critical Care) and VTS (Anesthesia), cofounded the Academy of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT), the first organization of its kind. Five other AVECCT members work in the hospital’s critical care units, including Kim Zwerenz-Miks, who is also a VTS in small animal internal medicine.

Davis and Cornell, along with colleagues Kirk Stafford, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia), and Greg Hanson RVT, VTS (Anesthesia), organized the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists.

Marika Pappagianis RVT, VTS (Large Animal Internal Medicine), Kristin Miguel RVT, VTS (Large Animal Internal Medicine), Susan Cox RVT, VTS (Small Animal Internal Medicine) and Darlene Riel, RVT, VTS (Small Animal Internal Medicine) helped establish the Academy of Internal Medicine Veterinary Technicians.



Photos: Don Präsler

Registered Veterinary Technician Robert Favorite instructs second-year veterinary students Shelley Smith and Krista Jones in the Equine Clinical Skills Laboratory course in the Ira M. “Gary” Gourley Clinical Teaching Center.

HUMAN HEALTH

Researchers Win Round Against West Nile

The nation's mortgage crisis has affected people in many ways, but few would immediately connect that situation with public health.

Fortunately, public health experts raised a particular question about abandoned homes that UC Davis and local mosquito control agencies have been able to answer.

Scientists from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Kern County Mosquito and Vector Control District have reported that when mortgage foreclosures rose 300 percent in the city of Bakersfield in 2007, the number of cases of West Nile virus in humans rose from 50–60 cases per year to 140.

The culprit? Neglected swimming pools at homes that had been abandoned after the foreclosures.

Working with fellow scientists, entomologist William Reisen of the Center for Vectorborne Diseases observed that the swimming pools and complex weather conditions favorable to mosquito breeding may have been responsible for the increase of West Nile in the region.

Aerial photographs taken over Bakersfield in July 2007 showed hundreds of suburban backyard pools with green instead of blue water, evidence that the pools were no longer being maintained.

Good News

In 2008, with early monitoring and aggressive mosquito control measures, no human cases occurred in the county. "This year, they did an excellent job and nipped everything in the bud," Reisen told the *New York Times* in November. "Getting on top of things early made a big difference."

Yellow-billed Magpie



Courtesy, Scott Crosbie

Avian Species at Risk from West Nile Virus

West Nile and California Birds

Mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus to birds as well as humans. Scott Crosbie of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory says that the Yellow-billed Magpie, found only in California, has suffered dramatic mortality from the virus. Since 2004, more than 12,000 dead magpies have been reported to the California Department of Health Services.

Along with several organizations, including the Audubon Society, the laboratory's Wildlife and Ecology unit found that the Yellow-billed Magpie has consistently had the highest proportion of virus-positive carcasses of all California native bird species. Crosbie and faculty member Holly Ernest are now monitoring magpie populations and their genetic biodiversity closely.

A New Approach to Protect Species

The Island Scrub-Jay of Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Southern California is at risk of extinction if West Nile virus makes it to the island.

Walter Boyce, codirector of the Wildlife Health Center, has begun a vaccination experiment on Santa Cruz Island to see if the jays can produce antibodies that protect against disease.

If they do, vaccination of a subgroup of the island bird population could create a "rescue population" able to withstand the introduction of the virus. Boyce says an evaluation is under way to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of vaccination relative to other potential strategies, like captive breeding, for reducing extinction risk.

EXPERT OPINION: EQUINE HEALTH

HORSES STILL NEED WEST NILE VACCINES

While decreased numbers of horses in California were affected with West Nile virus-related illness last year, it is still critical to make sure that horses are appropriately vaccinated against the deadly mosquito-borne infection characterized by fever and brain inflammation.

There are currently three licensed products available for horses: an inactivated whole virus vaccine, a chimeric modified live vaccine, and a non-replicating recombinant vectored vaccine. All are labeled for annual vaccination and have been validated with efficacy and safety studies.

When there is a prolonged period of possible mosquito exposure, such as in areas with long seasons hospitable to mosquitoes, or in horses with greater susceptibility to infections, such as juvenile or geriatric horses, semi-annual vaccination has been routinely performed. This protocol still may be prudent in many instances, but in other cases a yearly vaccination interval is probably adequate. Your veterinarian will be in the best position to assess the risk to your horse and make the appropriate vaccination recommendations.

Most importantly, don't be lulled into a false sense of security by the decreased incidence of West Nile virus-related disease in horses. This is likely a result of aggressive vaccination and frequent natural exposure of resident horses to the infection, but the number of clinical cases would probably increase if horse owners don't maintain their current good practices.

—Stephanie Bell, Associate Veterinarian, Equine Field Service

Visit www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/vaccination.htm for more about equine vaccines.

UC Davis Celebrates Centennial, School of Veterinary Medicine Marks 60th Anniversary

1952

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission contracts with the school to investigate the effects of low-level radiation on dogs and assess human health risks. The study, which evolves through 1986, generates new knowledge about the effects of radiation, optimizing the kennel environment and animal care.

1962

The California National Primate Research Center opens, and veterinary scientists carry out studies of nutrition and the effects of aging on cognition and memory, thalidomide and other agents that cause birth defects, and studies toward development of the simian model for the medical study of AIDS and novel vaccines for HIV/AIDS.

1972

The California Raptor Center opens to treat injured birds of prey, conduct veterinary training and educate the public about healthy raptors and their environment.

1974

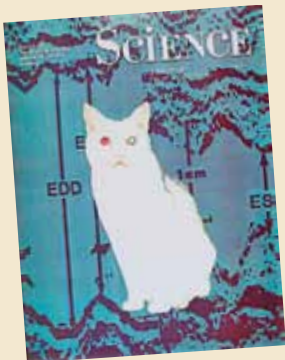
Faculty determine that *Pasteurella* bacteria are the source of a pneumonia that causes the majority of cattle deaths in feedlots. The finding leads to better industry standards for beef cattle health and well-being.

1983

The Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center opens in Tulare to conduct applied research at the hub of the U.S. dairy industry. The J-5 mastitis vaccine (1988), improves animal health and saves dairy producers \$11 million each year. The center offers unique opportunities for specialized training and provides comprehensive veterinary services to regional dairy clients.

1987

Nutritionists document the link between a lack of dietary taurine, an amino acid, and feline dilated cardiomyopathy, a fatal heart ailment in cats. Pet food companies now add taurine to commercial pet food, saving thousands of pets' lives every year.



a fatal heart ailment in cats. Pet food companies now add taurine to commercial pet food, saving thousands of pets' lives every year.

1990

Clinicians create the first veterinary hemodialysis unit. The world's largest

program now conducts about 1,000 treatments per year. The life saving service expanded in

Starting with livestock health programs in the 1950s, UC Davis faculty changed how animals were cared for in California's growing dairy, beef and poultry industries. The first MPVM degree program in 1966 and other school initiatives such as the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, both of which opened in the 1980s, led to the comprehensive public health and food safety approach of today's Western Institute for Food Safety and Security.



Researchers in zoonotic disease have identified new pathogens, outlined how diseases are transmitted, and developed novel programs to prevent outbreaks and educate veterinary professionals throughout the world about biosecurity.

The integration of veterinary and human medicine to "one medicine," begun with the first comparative and preventive medicine department in a veterinary school, remains a strength of UC Davis exemplified by the Center for Comparative Medicine. Veterinary faculty over the years have advanced both animal and human health starting with fundamental examinations of amino acids and the effects of low-level nuclear radiation exposure. Since the 1970s, California's EPA has relied on studies of the effects of air pollution on primate lungs to establish and refine air quality standards. At the forefront of AIDS research, faculty developed early animal models and continue to develop the knowledge that will lead to new vaccines and drug therapies.

With active recruitment and support of veterinarian-scientists through the DVM curriculum, mentored research opportunities, graduate academic programs and a laboratory animal residency, the school strikes a balance between research and teaching that is helping to fill a growing need for biomedical research and expertise in veterinary public health. Several DVM graduates serve in leading positions in state agencies charged with addressing these issues.

2002 to the UC Veterinary Medical Center, San Diego.



1992

The Michael R. Floyd Veterinary Dental Operatory Suite opens in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, bringing state-of-the-art dental care to pets and providing greater hands-on clinical experience for students.

1999

Environmental toxicologists discover that dioxin exposure may cause early fetal loss in the nonhuman primate.

1999

The Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory opens to perform drug testing of equine athletes,

provide education and carry out research in equine pharmacology.

2002

Cell biologists decipher the activation process of blood platelets and develop better storage methods for human blood products.

2002

The first federally approved vaccine for AIDS in cats is based on School of Veterinary Medicine discoveries about feline immunodeficiency virus.

2009 AND BEYOND

UC Davis has developed facilities and clinical experience to assure the highest standards of laboratory animal care. The Center for Laboratory

Animal Science, the Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center, the Knock-Out Mouse Project and the Mouse Biology Program provide valuable resources that support biomedical discovery nationwide.



New Initiative Promotes Animal Welfare through Science and Education

Breakdowns on the racetrack. Disabled dairy and beef cattle in a slaughterhouse. Abandoned shelter animals. Livestock trailers overturned. Pets separated from families during disasters. Injured animals stranded on a trail.

In a new initiative, experts from shelter medicine, emergency preparedness, Veterinary Medicine Extension, large animal practice, wildlife health and other fields are uniting to tackle the many facets of humane treatment of animals. The Edward E. Hills Fund provided critical startup support.

The **International Animal Welfare Training Institute**, led by Professor John Madigan and Deputy Director Tracey Stevens-Martin, has brought together faculty and

agricultural industry representatives to identify projects that will provide a scientific foundation for welfare practices.

Carolyn Stull, Veterinary Medicine Extension specialist, heads the livestock section for animal welfare improvements.

The group's focus includes existing programs and potential research issues:

- Modern measurements of animal stress and pain
- Transport conditions
- Optimal training for producers and animal handlers
- Bridging gaps in implementation of welfare strategies
- On-farm assessments and welfare audits
- Humane end of life for agricultural animals
- Costs and consumer concerns

Communicating existing welfare knowledge to producers, veterinary students and others involved in animal industries is a top priority.

Since July, several workshops and a seminar series have covered topics such as pet overpopulation, animal abandonment, and unwanted horses. The seminars have included demonstrations of humane rescue techniques for disabled livestock, veterinary welfare assessments and welfare audits of dairy or beef cattle, and discussions of safe and effective euthanasia on the farm.

California is clearly ready for a multifaceted approach. The California Animal Response Emergency Systems (CARES), now part of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, is seeking input from UC Davis veterinary faculty as CARES works to bring the program into effect in counties across the state.

Monthly educational forums and trainings are also scheduled throughout 2009, including a March 2–3 visit by noted professor Temple Grandin, Colorado State University, on humane livestock handling and housing.



Using a life-sized bovine model, Professor John Madigan and Dana Conly, class of 2009, demonstrate a specialized sling system developed at the school's teaching hospital. The sling is used to safely lift a recumbent animal into a therapeutic flotation tank for support while recovering from a fall, a difficult birth on a dairy, or other medical condition.

COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH

GENE MUTATION DISCOVERY BENEFITS DALMATIAN BREED

The discovery of a gene mutation that causes high levels of uric acid in all Dalmatian dogs, and bladder stones in some, equips dog breeders with the tools to eliminate that trait from the Dalmatian breed. It also yields clues to the cause of similar problems in humans.

"This defect, which in dogs is peculiar to the entire Dalmatian breed, has been reported for nearly a century and was probably unintentionally introduced as breeders worked to select more distinctive spotting patterns," says veterinary geneticist Danika Bannasch, lead author of the study.

Researchers collected DNA and urine samples from hundreds of dogs to identify the gene responsible for high levels of uric acid. Analysis of dogs that are a cross between pointers and Dalmatians revealed that gene to be SLC2A9, recently reported to be important in regulating uric acid levels in humans. DNA analysis showed that mutations in the SLC2A9 gene were responsible for the elevated uric acid in the Dalmatians.

Because the mutation occurs in all Dalmatians, breeders must look outside the breed to correct the problem. "In recent years, dogs that are about 99 percent Dalmatian and one percent pointer have been bred, successfully

eliminating the elevated uric acid trait," says Bannasch. "The result is a healthy dog that looks like a Dalmatian, maintains the Dalmatian breed characteristics and is genetically almost identical."

Although humans also carry the SLC2A9 gene, scientists have not yet identified the exact mechanism that causes elevated uric acid levels in humans and great apes. Veterinary findings will help scientists better understand the related problem in humans.



Dalmatian cross

THANK YOU NOTES

A CELEBRATION OF ALUMNI

The School of Veterinary Medicine classes of '58, '72, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98 and their families returned September 13 to celebrate Alumni Day, which included reunions, tours and lunch with the dean. Several of the groups presented the school with class gifts.

Members of the class of 1958, 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 and joyful reflection of their veterinary careers and remembrance of their classmates.

Ian Coster (right), class of 1958, and classmates (left) join in the 50-year reunion and Rose Ceremony. Their class gift of \$50,000 is directed toward construction of Veterinary Medicine III B.



PHILANTHROPISTS LAUDED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SCHOOL AND WILDLIFE HEALTH RESEARCH

Phil and Karen Drayer have been avid supporters of the Wildlife Health Center (WHC) and its programs for more than 10 years. Last September the Drayers received the school's Distinguished Service Award for their leadership and support of wildlife health research.

The Drayers are committed to making significant contributions toward construction of a new home for the Wildlife Health Center in the Health Sciences Complex.

Jonna Mazet, WHC codirector, says, "Phil and Karen's support has been unprecedented for graduate students pursuing new ideas in ecosystem health. We are grateful to have friends who see the importance and potential of this scientific work."

In 1996 Mr. and Mrs. Drayer became interested in the wildlife health program, particularly the work that addressed the health and welfare of sea otters. Mr. Drayer—engineer, lawyer, entrepreneur and philanthropist—became the school's first "venture donor," providing funds and personal time toward development of a strategic plan and business model to establish the Wildlife Health Center. Mr. and Mrs. Drayer became the founding members of the WHC advisory board. With their energy and financial investment, the WHC grew to become a center of excellence with an annual budget of approximately \$6 million.

In the 90s, the success of the first off-campus Dean's Advisory Council meeting, focused on marine ecosystem health issues and hosted by the Drayers in Monterey, helped establish the council as a highly effective and supportive volunteer body.

In 2000 Mr. Drayer took the lead in establishing a separate non-profit Wildlife Health Center Foundation and has served as its president and chief fund raiser. The foundation has provided more than \$760,000 in contributions to the WHC. The Drayers' personal and foundation gifts total more than \$1.3 million, and they have specified a major contribution to the school in their estate plans.

Distinguished Service Awardees Karen and Phil Drayer (center) provide funding for many WHC graduate researchers whose studies include diseases of Alaskan sea otters and transmission of *Toxoplasma gondii*.



Rose Circle New Society Recognizes Alumni Donors

In July 2008, the School of Veterinary Medicine established a new society called the Rose Circle for alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more. Members make an annual contribution to the school of at least \$100 or include the school in their estate plans. Funds are directed to priority projects selected by Dean Bennie Osburn. Members receive special recognition in school publications and are invited to programs and lectures that include other Rose Circle members, emeriti professors, current faculty and students.

The Rose Circle takes its name from the Rose Ceremony held during the school's annual 50th class reunion celebration. During the ceremony, alumni or their representatives build a rose bouquet and share their memories and experiences at the School of Veterinary Medicine. If you'd like to become a member of the Rose Circle, call the Development Office at (530) 752-7024.

EQUINE CEREBELLAR ABIOTROPHY

NEW DNA TEST WILL AID HORSES, BREEDERS

Cecilia Penedo, PhD, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, has developed a genetic test to screen for equine cerebellar abiotrophy, a genetic neurological condition that occurs almost exclusively in Arabian horses. The disease causes the death of neurons in the cerebellum. Breeding two carrier horses gives a foal a 25 percent chance of receiving the genes that cause the disease, which becomes apparent shortly after birth.

Horses affected by cerebellar abiotrophy may have mild to severe tremors of the head, and they can easily lose their balance. They are prone to falls, making them unsafe to ride and more likely to become injured.

The late professor Ann Bowling began research into the condition in 1985. Several breeders and the Arabian Horse Foundation have helped to identify affected Arabian equine families and have provided research support.

VETERINARIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND ASSISTANTS

CENTER FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

View the 2009 Calendar... and enroll today!

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ce

Looking for a veterinarian? Connect with UC Davis graduates online!

The *School of Veterinary Medicine 2009 Senior Directory* puts you in touch with DVM graduates' contact information, educational background and training, veterinary experience and career interests. Questions? Call Student Programs, (530) 752-1383.

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/placementservices



ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Office of Public Programs (700W)
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis CA 95616-8736

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu



Veterinary **NEWS** **Medicine**

Veterinary Medicine News is published by the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine: Bennie I. Osburn, DVM, PhD, dean; Donald J. Klingborg, DVM, associate dean for public programs; Susan Donahue, editor; Lynn Nartlesky, Michelle Silva, Don Preisler and the UC Davis News Service, contributors. The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The university is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
UC Davis