Equine Chemistry Laboratory Named for Kenneth L. Maddy

The School of Veterinary Medicine has named its newest laboratory in honor of Kenneth L. Maddy, retired state senator from Fresno and long-time friend of the California horse industry.

The Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will provide UC Davis veterinary faculty with facilities and equipment to test unauthorized drugs in racing Thoroughbreds and to study how medications affect the health and performance of all types of horses.

Scheduled for completion this fall, the 29,000-square-foot, $7.4 million building is being constructed on the west side of campus just north of the Thurman Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. “The naming of the laboratory recognizes Ken Maddy’s substantial and enduring contributions to California’s animal agriculture, the horse industry and the School of Veterinary Medicine,” says UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef.

Senator Maddy supports the school’s equine research program as a member of the Silver Stirrup Society, serves on the advisory board of the school’s Equine Health; John D. Wheat, professor emeritus; John Pascoe, executive associate dean; and Rick Arthur, equine surgeon and recipient of the 1998 Alumni Achievement Award.

Equine Orthopedic Laboratory Honors J.D. Wheat

The J.D. Wheat Equine Orthopedic Laboratory, a principal research unit of the Center for Equine Health that is nationally recognized for leadership in the study of equine athletic injuries, was dedicated last June.

The laboratory was named in honor of John D. Wheat, professor emeritus and a founding faculty member of the School of Veterinary Medicine, who has made many enduring contributions to the teaching and practice of equine medicine and surgery.

A $1 million endowment from the Dolly Green Research Foundation provides perpetual support for the laboratory to continue research into treatment and prevention of racing-related orthopedic injuries. The endowment also establishes the annual Dolly Green Lecture Series to update veterinary practitioners on the latest discoveries in the field, and supports education and training of new equine veterinarians through the Dolly Green Resident Grant Program.

New Oiled Wildlife Care Center Will Serve Southern California

A new facility designed for the care of large numbers of sea birds affected by oil spills will be located at SeaWorld San Diego.

The new facility will be part of the statewide Oiled Wildlife Care Network that is jointly administered by UC Davis and the California Department of Fish and Game. The state-funded, 21-facility network treated more than 2,000 animals last year in response to nine California oil spills.

Construction of the SeaWorld Oiled Wildlife Care Center is slated to begin this month and should be completed by the end of the year.

The new 2,600 square-foot center is designed to temporarily house 200 birds. It will include examination and treatment rooms, indoor and outdoor pens, and pools.

When rescued from oiled waters, sea birds are examined, cleaned and given fluids and activated charcoal to absorb and eliminate toxins. After 10 to 14 days at a rehabilitation center, birds that have recovered medically and can swim, fly and forage are released to the wild.

A ground breaking ceremony last March marked the 10th anniversary of the disastrous 11.2 million gallon Exxon Valdez crude oil spill that occurred in Alaska's Prince William Sound. "Since the Exxon Valdez spill, tremendous improvements have been made in rescuing, caring for and rehabilitating oiled wildlife," says Jonna Mazet, UC Davis faculty member and director of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. "In the past decade we have seen a great increase in treatment methods and subsequent survival rates because the network has allowed us to quickly respond to spills. The new SeaWorld center will further strengthen our ability to serve Southern California."