Planning for the Future: The Heritage Society for Animals

The Heritage Society for Animals recognizes individuals who have chosen to express their commitment to animals and to the school through their estate plans.

Estate planning options include bequests made through wills; revocable living trusts; and life income agreements such as charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, and gift annuities.

Each year, dozens of individuals who share a concern for the health of animals join the Heritage Society. Members enjoy an annual luncheon with faculty presentations and invitations to special school events throughout the year.

Sometimes estate gifts come from people who have never visited the school or been clients of its many clinical services at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, but they dearly love animals and know of the school’s accomplishments.

Estate preparation does not need to begin late in life—foresight and generosity today can make a significant impact on the well-being of animals in the future.

Dr. Joyce Weidman of Honolulu, Hawaii, a young alumna (class of 1997), has made plans through her living trust to contribute half of her estate for DVM scholarships and half for research in the Center for Companion Animal Health.

“Estate planning need not begin when we are senior citizens—it should be part of a lifelong plan.”
—Dr. Joyce Weidman

Dr. Weidman says, “I want to give something back to my alma mater and to the profession that I dearly love. Helping veterinary students in the future provides me with great pleasure, and by providing research support I’m also helping animals that have played such a tremendous role in my life. Estate planning need not begin when we are senior citizens, it should be part of a lifelong plan.”

Creative Support for Veterinary Medicine

A Birthday Tribute
James and Judy Caron of Modesto, California celebrated Judy’s most recent birthday in a novel way—Ms. Caron delighted her friends by asking them to make a contribution to the Center for Companion Animal Health in lieu of birthday presents. In recognition of the generosity of the Carons and their friends, a bench will be placed in the memorial garden of the new CCAH and will be named in honor of the Carons’ beagles.

A Celebration for Patient Care
David and Joann Zakarin of San Diego, California, celebrated the Fourth of July with a special gathering of family and friends (both two- and four-legged). They held a winetasting in their home to benefit the Companion Animal Hemodialysis Unit of the University of California Veterinary Medical Center—San Diego.

Funds raised at their reception helped to increase the Boo Bear Fund, established after the Zakarins’ dog, Boo Bear, needed hemodialysis. The fund supports the betterment of patient care and further development of the Companion Animal Hemodialysis Unit.

In special situations, the Zakarins make it possible for some of these funds to be used for part or all of a patient’s care when an owner’s financial constraints preclude survival of a pet who could otherwise be helped.

An Alumni Reunion Gift
Classmates of the school’s class of 1959, who held their 45th class reunion hosted by Ken and Gaby Levine in 2004, contributed $5,000 to the Peter C. Kennedy Endowed Fellowship in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology.

50th Reunion Tradition Continues

A tradition began with the class of 1952—the first to complete DVM degrees at UC Davis. Alumni of the School of Veterinary Medicine are invited to celebrate their 50th anniversaries with special commemorative reunions.

The tradition continued when members of the class of 1954 held their 50th reunion celebration on campus last June. Dr. Robert Brewer of Reston, Virginia, worked to organize not only the festivities, but also a class gift for the school.

Classmates contributed more than $50,000 to the Veterinary Medicine Instructional Facility. A classroom will be named for the class of ‘54, whose generous support is helping to complete the important facility.