



Veterinary Viewpoints

The New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University

Number Seven

Dean's Message
College Advisory Councils

N. Y. S. COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

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The responsibility for maintaining programs and studying appropriate new directions for a college or university is a challenge which properly taxes the strength of all administrators. Educational institutions must simultaneously serve a number of constituencies whose interests and requirements are often perceived as being mutually exclusive. The education, research, and public service within the Veterinary College must be provided an opportunity to undergo appropriate change and development in keeping with the ever increasing demands placed upon them within our complex society. In order to accomplish this it is vital that faculty, staff, and students be involved, but we must also expand our search for advice and critique to a much larger audience—one which is quite separate from the day to day activities of the institution. With this in mind I thought it might be of interest to explain the manner in which we seek to obtain such counsel, carefully selected to be representative of the very broadly based concerns of this College.

A requirement of Cornell University is that all colleges appoint an external advisory council charged with responsibility for overseeing the general operation of each college. Members are appointed by action of the Board of Trustees for a one year term which may be renewable for as long as five consecutive years. A written annual report is required by the Board. Periodically the chairperson of each council, accompanied by the dean of the college, is invited to appear before the Board of Trustees to discuss council findings and recommendations. Although the advisory councils to the various colleges may operate somewhat differently and are structured to meet the needs of a given college, the overall intent of this requirement is effectively the same. For the current year the Advisory Council to the Veterinary College is:

George W. Abbott, D.V.M. '45
Practitioner
Worcester, Massachusetts

Morton Adams, B.S. '33
Member of Cornell Board of Trustees
and former Chairman of Curtice-
Burns, Inc.
Sodus, New York

J. Roger Barber
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Agriculture and Markets
Albany, New York

Jerry J. Callis, D.V.M., M.S.,
(Chairman)
Director, U.S.D.A. Plum Island
Animal Disease Laboratory
Greenport, New York

M. Robert Clarkson, D.V.M., LL.B.
Retired executive with U.S.D.A.
and A.V.M.A.
Peterborough, New Hampshire

W. Max Decker, D.V.M.
Washington Representative
American Veterinary Medical Assoc.
Washington, D.C.

John S. Dyson, B.S. '65, M.S.
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Commerce
Albany, New York

Joe R. Held, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Research
Services
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Lisle E. Hopkins
Hopkins Dairy Farm
Bath, New York

James H. Leatham, Ph.D.
Professor of Zoology and former
Director, Bureau of Biological
Research
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Robert R. Marshak, D.V.M. '45
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Albert W. Miller, D.V.M. '49
Practitioner
Cincinnati, New York

Gerald P. Murphy, M.D., D. Sc.
Director, Roswell Park Memorial
Institute
Buffalo, New York

Robert Schwartz, M.D.
Chief, Hematology Service
New England Medical Center Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

William F. Stack, D.V.M. '53
Practitioner
Fayetteville, New York

Bruce Widger, D.V.M. '51
Practitioner
Member of Cornell Board of Trustees
Marcellus, New York

Leo A. Wuori, D.V.M. '42
Practitioner
Ithaca, New York

It is important to note that membership on the Council is broadly representative of a number of areas of importance to us. It serves as the overall advisory body for this College to the Dean, the President, and the Board of Trustees. It generally meets in Ithaca once a year, but a continuous interaction occurs throughout the intervening months. Individual members of the Council are often called upon for advice or assistance in their areas of expertise. In these ways the Council serves as an invaluable asset to the College.

Because of the very specialized nature of some of our activities and the complexities of the issues involved, we have found it increasingly necessary to appoint supplementary advisory groups. In some instances members of such groups also serve on the College Advisory Council, thus providing appropriate liaison to the parent body. At the present time the following additional advisory groups are working with the College:

Equine Advisory Council

College Development Advisory Committee (Alumni)

Advisory Committee for the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health

Advisory Committee to the Diagnostic Laboratory

Bovine Health Research Center Advisory Committee

Feline Research Laboratory Advisory Committee (Proposed)

New York State Veterinary Medical Society Liaison Committee (jointly appointed by the Society and the College)

Alumni Review Group (use of unrestricted alumni gifts)

In forthcoming issues of *Viewpoints* we will be reporting on the activities of these groups. At that time we will list the current membership so you may gain a better understanding of the extent to which key individuals who are external to the College are involved in the very important capacity of bringing to us the benefit of their expertise and advice. The willingness of so many people to give of their time and talent is heartwarming and bodes well for our future.

In addition to the more formally structured advisory councils and committees, ad hoc external review groups are also being extensively used. For example, an external group of scientists was brought to the College to review our entire research program. Their report is continually used in making adjustments to our ongoing research programs. Another activity recently developed is the concept of having every department, on a periodic basis, undergo an in-depth evaluation of its programs. As now envisioned, each department will be given such an evaluation every five years, at the time of making or renewing the appointment of the departmental chairperson. In the most positive sense, we anticipate that such reviews will enable the chairpersons, the faculty, and the administration to continually reappraise our programs and serve to chart directions for future development.

From this brief description of our various external advisory groups I hope you can see that we do not operate in a vacuum. It is essential that we obtain meaningful counsel if we are to make necessary adjustments and keep abreast of the ever changing demands of modern society. I am anxious to discuss with alumni and friends of the College any thoughts they may have concerning these important issues. It is my goal to open and maintain lines of communication and subsequent cooperation for the continuing benefit of this College, the veterinary medical profession, and society at large.

Edward C. Melby, Jr., Dean

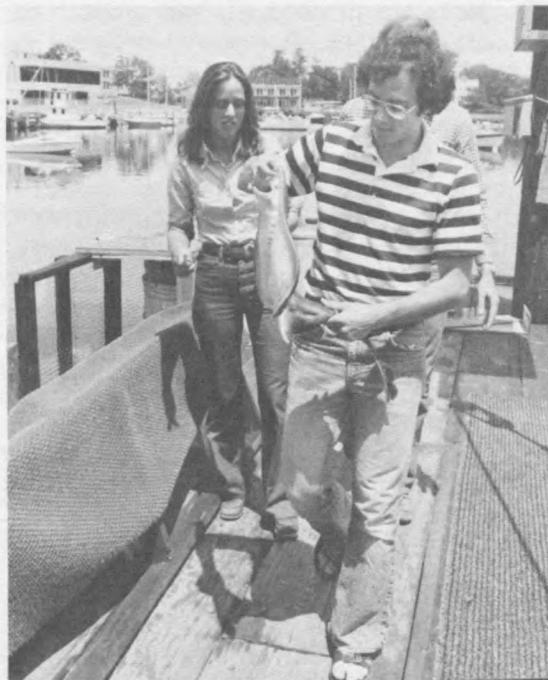
Aquavet—1978

The unique "Aquavet" program in aquatic animal veterinary medicine is being offered again this year. The four-week course in instruction takes place at Woods Hole, Massachusetts from May 21 to June 17. Four of the students will continue for an additional eight weeks in research programs on aquatic animal medicine.

The program was initiated last year under the sponsorship of the veterinary schools at Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania. Cornell Dean Edward C. Melby, Jr. serves as chairman of the policy-setting advisory board. There are two associate deans who coordinate and supervise the program, Dr. Charles G. Rickard representing Cornell and Dr. Donald A. Abt from the University of Pennsylvania. Faculty committees at both schools work on curriculum and admissions. Three marine science institutions at Woods Hole also share in the sponsorship—the Marine Biological Laboratory (in whose facilities the course is taught), the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Northeastern Fisheries Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The basic objective of the Aquavet program is to involve veterinary medicine in the health of aquatic animals. In recent decades the profession has become interested in an ever-widening array of animal species—farm animals, pets, birds, primates, laboratory rodents, etc. The importance of disease control in fish, shellfish, lobsters, aquarium fish, etc., is now recognized. Huge industries are involved. The rapid development of aquaculture as a means of providing protein for the diets of an expanding world population provides an immediate stimulus. Veterinary medicine must accept the responsibility of applying the knowledge and technology of comparative medicine to insuring the health of the many aquatic species.

Last year 15 veterinary medical students from the two schools attended the four-week instructional program at Woods Hole. Fifty-three faculty members from 18 institutions were brought in to instruct them. In addition to lectures and laboratories, maximum use was made of the many interesting and educational features and facilities in the region. Field trips were made to the local shores, salt marshes, estuaries, etc. Trips on vessels were made onto Vineyard Sound. The New England Aquarium in Boston and the commercial fish auction and market in New Bedford were visited. During the four weeks, an appreciation was gained of the important aquatic species, their environment and nutrition. Selected topics in comparative physiology and pathology were explored, and a



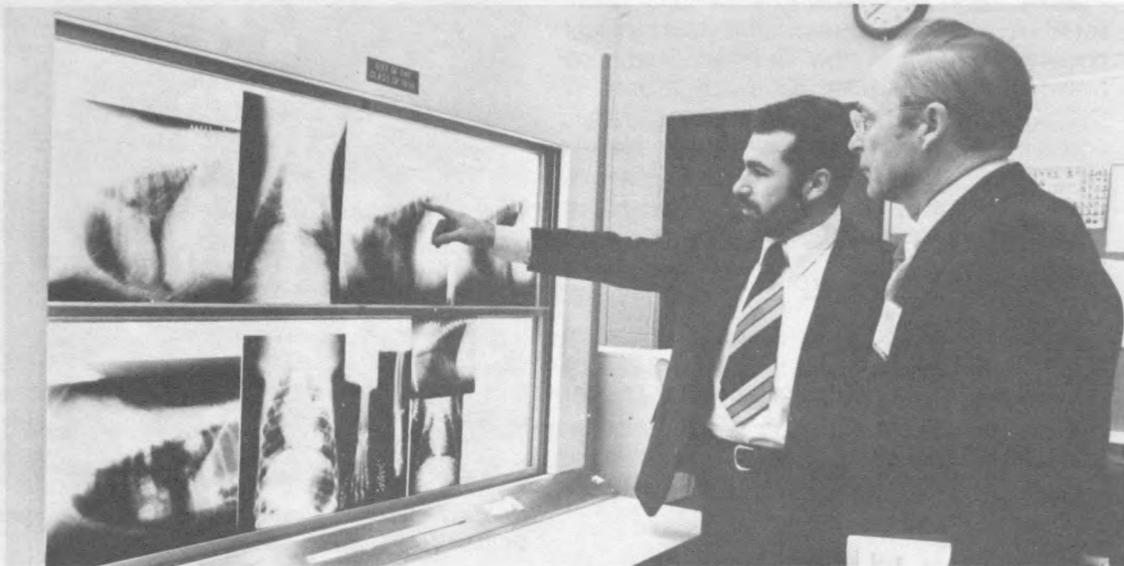
Eric Davis from Cornell and Cynthia Dalgliesh from the University of Pennsylvania were two of the participants in the Aquavet program held at Woods Hole, Mass. In the background on the left is the Swope Center where the students lived during the 4-week period of instruction.

a detailed consideration of the diseases of a few representative species—fin fish, crustacean, shellfish, and marine mammals—was undertaken. A pilot whale was dissected, as well as several other marine mammals.

There are some innovations in the program this year. In addition to eight veterinary medical students from Cornell and eight from the University of Pennsylvania, twelve have been accepted from other veterinary colleges. There have been inquiries from practicing veterinarians and five will be attending.

The New York Sea Grant Institute has provided funds to support the instruction and certain student expenses. Practicing veterinarians are asked to pay their personal expenses and a tuition fee.

No one can foretell how many veterinarians will be involved in aquatic animal matters in the future. Some will diagnose and treat sick animals. Others will provide preventative medicine by management, nutrition, isolation, and similar means. Some will conduct research to aid in the development of the field. In any event, a valuable start has been made.



Class of 1956

During the 1978 Veterinary College Annual Conference Dr. Victor T. Rendano, Chief of the Section of Radiology, demonstrated the teaching uses of the motorized x-ray viewer to Dr. Charles M. Frumerie, '56, from Pawling, New York. It was primarily a 20th reunion gift from the Class of '56 that enabled the College to purchase this important piece of equipment.

\$200,000 Trust to Support Canine Research

One man's great wish--to find a way to prolong dog's lives--may someday come true through research made possible by his own generosity. That man, Eugen Grabscheid, M.D. of Tenafly, N.J., has established a \$200,000 trust for future canine research at the Veterinary College.

Dr. Grabscheid, who describes himself as "a Shepherd man for fifty years," is known for his love of all animals--especially his two German Shepherd dogs, Cobert's Wolfi and Cobert's Jolie, a champion. He describes the character of his canine pair lovingly. "When I leave the house, their expression says, 'our world goes', and when I return their happiness knows no bounds."

In accepting this generous gift, Dean Melby pointed out that it will serve as an outstanding example for other people who also might wish to honor their companion animals through assisting animal research and health care delivery. Dr. Grabscheid was first introduced to the work of the College of Veterinary Medicine and its need for financial support for its research activities through his long-time friend, Dr. Raphael Meisels. A 1934 graduate of the College, Dr. Meisels cared for a number of Dr. Grabscheid's dogs for many years, during which a warm relationship developed between the two men. It was chiefly Dr. Meisels' continued, active interest in the work of the College of Veterinary Medicine which provided the impetus for Dr. Grabscheid's thoughtful gift.

Income from the trust will be used to support research with special emphasis whenever possible in canine longevity and spondyloarthritis, two of many areas of canine research under investigation at the College's Department of Clinical Sciences and the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health.

Canine Research at the College

The Baker Institute recently has made advances in understanding the interplay of genetic susceptibility for hip dysplasia, a severe problem for German Shepherds among other breeds, and management conditions during puppy growth. Associated with hip dysplasia in dogs is osteoarthritis which, the Institute has found, involves an abnormality of protein metabolism in the diseased hip joints. It is expected that the knowledge gained from these studies will provide for rational approaches to therapy and ultimate prevention of osteoarthritis so common in dogs.

Faculty in Clinical Sciences are very interested in various orthopedic and neurological conditions seen in the German Shepherd breed, which has been so much a part of Dr. Grabscheid's life, as well as other companion and working dogs. Newer techniques in dealing with the arthritides, including spondyloarthritis are being evaluated. Also, a good deal of progress has been made in providing prosthetic hip joint replacement for victims of hip dysplasia.

Through support of these and other endeavors of the College, new vistas are opened for people concerned about animal health and animal care. A great deal has been accomplished but much remains to be done. Only with the assistance of private funds will we be able to devote the effort to animal health that is required.



Dr. Eugen Grabscheid with his two German Shepherds, Wolfi (left) and Jolie.

How Practitioners Can Involve the Public in the Campaign

Enclosed with this issue of *Veterinary Viewpoints* is a copy of the new leaflet *A Visit to the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University* and a sheet describing its possible uses in securing the public's support of College programs. It has been tried by a sample group of alumni and found to be effective. We hope that you will wish to use it in your office with selected clients. For additional copies, please fill out the request form and send it to the Veterinary College Office of Public Affairs.

Profile: Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine

Avian medicine has constituted a strong segment of Veterinary College activities for several decades and, even when under the aegis of the former Department of Pathology and Bacteriology, it represented a relatively independent "unit." Unlike other aspects of the College program in veterinary medicine, the avian program has been largely species rather than discipline oriented. This pattern continues even though the department has expanded its interests to include aquatic animal medicine in recent years.

Species Orientation

To understand this unique species-orientation it is necessary to consider the factors which motivate it. Perhaps the single most important impetus comes from the fact that for many years, poultry disease control enjoyed the distinction of being the only area in which preventive medicine was the keystone. This engendered strong research programs aimed at dealing with disease on a population rather than individual basis. Practicing veterinarians, more attuned to curative than to preventive medicine, left the problems of poultry disease control to the universities and experiment stations. Individuals became expert in various disciplines within the field of avian medicine and it was left to them to develop programs in teaching, research, and service to represent the College. Thus the Department has faculty members who have specialized in parasitology, mycoplasmal infections, virology, bacteriology, pathology, etc.

It was in the capacity of a poultry disease expert that Dr. P. P. Levine functioned for many years before the Department of Avian Diseases was founded under his guidance in 1961. Indeed, the establishment of a separate department only recognized the distinctness of his longstanding program. In 1973, during the tenure as chairman of Dr. S. B. Hitchner, the department sought and was given responsibility for developing teaching and service (diagnostic) programs in aquatic animal medicine for the College. This, too, represents a species orientation. The marriage of avian and aquatic animal medicine is very logical when one considers that disease problems in commercial fish and shell-fish

operation are partly due to close confinement of large populations and that disease control must be through preventive approaches.

Present Teaching Services and Research

At present, the department has a relatively modest teaching program. A course in avian diseases is part of the core curriculum and is given to 2nd year students. Elective courses in poultry diseases and fish diseases are offered and faculty members participate in the teaching of some courses offered by other departments. In addition, three graduate students are majoring in avian and two in aquatic animal programs.

Service work has traditionally received strong emphasis. Diagnostic services for avian species are offered in Kingston, Eastport, and Springville as well as in Ithaca, and the relatively new diagnostic service for fish and shell-fish at the Veterinary College is growing in significance. A program to assist the shell-fish industry through monthly visits to Long Island hatcheries plus related research activities is a key service aspect of our aquatic animal program. A unique joint program, wherein a Duck Research Cooperative Laboratory at Eastport is run by the University and supported by duck growers, offers diagnostic and extension services, and produces licensed biologics for control of duck diseases.

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant and best known activities of the department has been with research. The impact has been clear, as illustrated by a few of many possible examples: research leading to the first use of sulfonamides for coccidiosis in birds paved the way to present chemotherapeutic approaches to this disease; the department was instrumental in developing eradication programs used throughout the world for control of avian mycoplasmas; studies on tumor diseases date back to the 1940's and continue with emphasis on pathogenesis, immunity, and various aspects important in comparative oncology; discovery of the method of virus spread and development of vaccine improvements for Marek's disease were key findings in the tumor research. Certainly the department enjoys a reputation for being a leader in research and for having contributed heavily to the fact that poultry diseases now have relatively little impact on poultry production. The diverse interests and broad experience of the current faculty suggests that they can make similar inroads in the area of aquatic animal disease.

Future Directions

Where is the department headed in the future? Several new areas being developed will certainly become important in terms of both research and teaching: (1) Pet bird medicine has received very little attention in the past. Students are in need of, and anxious to receive, more instruction in this aspect of veterinary medicine. A research program in the department is underway and will form the foundation for increased instruction on handling pet bird disease problems. (2) The aquatic animal disease program will undoubtedly grow to expand in all directions: research, teaching, and extension. New staff has been added and it is hoped that facilities for studying various infectious diseases will be developed to help in the expansion. Interaction with state agencies, industry groups, intercollege programs (e.g. the aquaculture program) and interdepartmental programs will be important in this development. (3) Finally, it is obvious that the study of poultry diseases will constitute a continued strong research commitment. Ailments such as the neoplastic diseases, arteriosclerosis and immunosuppressive infections of chickens require study not only to satisfy the needs of the poultry industry itself but also because of their great importance to the field of comparative medicine.



Staff Appointments

Dr. William Hansel, Professor of Animal Physiology and Chairman, Department of Physical Biology and the Section of Physiology, Division of Biological Sciences. Dr. Hansel's entire scientific career has been at Cornell. After obtaining the Ph.D. degree at Cornell, he joined the Animal Science Department, where his work on hormonal control of reproduction in cattle, and more recently the dog, has become well known throughout the world. As Chairman of the recently created unit involving members of several colleges, he will attempt to integrate many of the research and teaching activities in Physiology.