Recently accepting our offer of full-time employment as feline ambassador of the Cornell Feline Health Center is Elizabeth, the lovely tri-colored kitty pictured here. You may notice that her right ear is tipped, a common way of identifying a feral cat that’s been trapped, then spayed or neutered (they need to be clearly identifiable so that if retrapped, they’re not mistakenly taken to surgery again).
She was abandoned at a farm when she was just beyond kittenhood, then she herself was trapped, spayed, and ear-tipped. When she awoke from her anesthetic, it was clear she was very friendly and quite socialized to humans, so she was adopted by the person who coordinated her rescue, and she lived in a loving household for several years.
Subsequently, my mother, then residing in an assisted-living facility, lost her long-time feline companion, so Elizabeth volunteered to serve in her stead. She embraced her new position vigorously. Elizabeth is an affable kitty, and I’m sure my mother received many more visitors than had the kitty been absent. Ultimately, though, Mom’s health forced relocation to a new home, and I’d hoped that Elizabeth could accompany her. Unfortunately, the six available feline slots at the new home were already filled, so Elizabeth joined the ranks of the unemployed. But her extensive résumé worked in her favor, and she quickly found employment at the Feline Health Center a few months after Dr. Mew’s position opened up. We’re all very happy with her job performance.
Lizzie has a weight problem, but her new weight-loss program is gradually succeeding. She’ll never regain the svelte figure she had as a younger cat, but she’ll be much healthier when she drops a few pounds.
Dr. James Richards
hanks to your support, the year 2006 has been a fulfilling one for the Cornell Feline Health Center. We are able to sponsor exciting new feline health studies, and we’ve awarded the largest number of scholarships ever to veterinary students interested in pursuing feline medicine as a career. (You can read the stories in this report.)

But of equal importance is the leadership role the Cornell Feline Health Center continues to play in a number of crucial feline issues. I had the pleasure to serve as the chairperson for the 2006 American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) Feline Vaccine Advisory Panel, an international panel of 12 experts. The resulting vaccination panel report—more than a year in preparation—is published in the November 1, 2006 Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Volume 229, Number 9, page 1405) and is accessible free-of-charge online at http://avmajournals.avma.org/toc/iavma/229/9. The center also is playing key roles in informing veterinarians and cat owners about the risks of certain zoonotic diseases (those transmissible between animals and humans), including avian influenza virus and how it endangers cats. I represented the AAFP and the center in helping the American Veterinary Medical Association create a “frequently asked questions” brief on avian influenza, and I invite you to view it at http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/avian_faq.asp. (See especially the section on avian influenza and companion animals.)

We continue to explore new ways to help cat lovers take better care of their feline friends. One example is a public information campaign entitled, “Healthy Cats for Life,” for which I serve as the Cornell Feline Health Center representative and official AAFP spokesperson. Another initiative is a campaign just under way to inform veterinarians and cat owners about the newly discovered dangers of feline heartworm disease. The campaign is in the formative stages, but I’ll keep you updated in upcoming issues of CatWatch. And debuting this year is a series of online educational videos viewable at www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu. Titles in this growing collection include topics from Caring for Your Diabetic Cat to Brushing Your Cat’s Teeth. (See the full article in this report.) Please take a look at the current videos and feel free to suggest other topics.

On a sadder note, many of you know that the center lost its longtime “spokescat,” Dr. Mew, earlier this year. We knew it would be impossible to find a cat with exactly the same talents that the Mewser had enthusiastically employed in his job for almost 17 years, and we weren’t actively seeking to fill his vacated position. But along came Elizabeth. (See the full story on the opposite page.)

The Cornell Feline Health Center is a unique organization completely dedicated to helping cats and the people who care for them. Thank you for joining us in serving these wondrous creatures that brighten our lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Richards
Director, Cornell Feline Health Center
Feline Calcivirus: Determining Factors that Influence Virulence

Feline calcivirus (FCV)—which commonly causes upper respiratory-tract disease and ulcers in the mouths of cats, and which more rarely may cause fatal systemic disease—remains an important pathogen of cats despite widespread vaccination. Although available vaccines usually protect cats against severe disease, they do not prevent infection (of the vaccinated cat or others with which it has contact). New FCV isolates continue to emerge sporadically and cause severe and sometimes fatal disease in cats.

What makes one FCV isolate more virulent than another? Parker and his team hypothesize that increased virulence is determined in part by more efficient binding of the virus to cell-surface receptor molecules, leading to increased efficiency for cell infection.

In the earlier phase of this study, Parker and his team characterized the growth kinetics of seven isolates of virulent-systemic FCV disease and sequenced the capsid proteins of those isolates.

In the next phase of their study the Cornell researchers will characterize the interaction between FCV and fJAM-A—or feline junctional adhesion molecule A, a receptor for FCV that was identified this past summer by a team of Japanese researchers. They will measure the kinetics of how different FCV isolates bind to fJAMA, identify the molecular determinants required for binding, and provide materials for structural studies of the virus and the FCV-fJAMA complex.

"With knowledge of the molecular details we can identify those regions and residues of the FCV capsid that are critical for cell-surface receptor binding and infection," Parker explains. With knowledge about the relationship between receptor interactions and virulence, scientists may be able to develop diagnostic assays to identify virulent FCV strains as well as effective vaccines to prevent infection.
Thrombosis in Cats with Cardiac Disease

Identifying Investigator: Tracy Stokol, BVSc, PhD, clinical pathologist in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences

Aortic thromboembolism (ATE) is a devastating consequence of various cardiac diseases in cats, causing severe pain and debilitation and often resulting in the cat's demise. Currently it is not known why cats with cardiac disease develop thrombi. Because of lack of knowledge, current treatment recommendations for ATE, primarily based on educated guesses, are largely ineffective. Those cats that survive the initial clot suffer from a high recurrence rate and often are placed on anticoagulant therapy with drugs such as heparin, warfarin, or aspirin—but these have no proven efficacy in preventing thrombosis in cats with cardiac disease.

It is important to identify the pathophysiology mechanisms that underlie this disorder so that rational and specific treatments—such as targeted prophylactic drug therapy—can be developed and administered.

Thrombosis can be initiated through three mechanisms—altered blood flow, endothelial cell damage, or abnormally enhanced function of the hemostatic system (hypercoagulability). Stokol and her team hypothesize that thrombosis in cats with cardiac disease is due to hypercoagulability that is initiated by the upregulation of tissue factor (the main initiator of coagulation).

Their goal in this study is to clone the feline tissue factor cDNA and express recombinant feline tissue factor in bacteria in order to develop tools—polyclonal anti-tissue-factor antibodies and species-specific PCR primers and oligonucleotide probes—that can be used to identify tissue factor in feline tissues.

Their long-term goal is to explore the role of tissue factor in initiating thrombosis in cats with cardiac disease. "If elevated tissue factor initiates thromboembolic disease in cats," Stokol explains, "then novel therapies, such as recombinant tissue-factor-pathway inhibitor, might prove useful in preventing thrombosis in cats with cardiac disease."
Studying Technologies to Help Conserve Endangered Felids

Investigator: Alexander J. Travis, VMD, PhD, reproductive biologist at Baker Institute for Animal Health

A major problem affecting the captive management of numerous felid species is that many males die prior to reaching their reproductive maturity—we lose the individual cat and any offspring it might have engendered.

Preservation of genetic material is crucial to the conservation of endangered species of felids. One new technology—spermatogonial stem-cell transplantation (SSCT)—offers a way to preserve the genetic potential of males that die before reproductive maturity. (Spermatagonia are present in the testes from the time of birth.) SSCT involves the transfer of spermatogonial stem cells from the testis of a donor cat to the testis of a recipient cat. The goal is that the recipient will produce donor sperm.

In the first phase of this study, Travis and his team performed SSCT using domestic cats as both donors and recipients. In the second phase of the project, they will investigate the efficacy of the SSCT by performing microsatellite analysis on DNA amplified from individual sperm produced by each recipient cat. Their analysis will indicate the percentage of sperm originating from the donor versus the recipient, verifying whether the scientists’ methods have been successful.

“Investigations such as these will allow us not only to benefit conservation,” says Travis, “but also provide scientific tools through which we can study issues such as germ cell-somatic cell interactions in the testis—an especially important issue in domestic cats, which suffer from high incidences of teratospermia (more than 60 percent abnormal sperm).”

The Felidae Family: lion; tiger; leopard; jaguar; puma; cheetah; lynx; caracal; bobcat; European, African, and Asiatic wild cats; domestic cat

of Winter and Blue Eyes  Vicki Engard, Calif.—Feline health studies  Joan C. Falk, Mich.—in memory of Opal Lamping and Maggie Milewski  Jason and Joanne Gibb, Colo.—in memory of TiggerButt  Elizabeth Graves, Va.—in memory of Fru Llu  Mrs. Norman Groenauer, N.Y.—Feline health studies: general contribution  Nancy Gregorich and Bryan Talbert, Mich.—in memory of Toonces Jane  Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Carol Haller, Fla.—General contribution  Barbara Howard, N.C.—General contribution  Leanna J. Jensen, N.Y.—in memory of Buster, Murphy, Smokey, Wheezer, and Muffin  Mr. and Mrs. Myron E. Johnston, Jr., Va.—in memory of Lovey  Berli S. Jones, N.Y.—in memory of Major Gray and Miss Marple  Dr. Mark R. Katz and Naomi J. Kartin, Calif.—in memory of Max and Kate  Yoshiko Koda, Japan.—in honor of Dr. Andrea Tasi and Staff of Kingstowne Cat Clinic; in memory of Silky and Harpo  John, Marilyn, and Sami Kuray, Md.—General contribution  Anthony S. Leidner, N.Y.—General contribution  Donald H. Lomb, N.Y.—General contribution  Elizabeth McCrum, Germany—Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund  Nancy McMullen, Minn.—General contribution  Sarah Medvitz, Fla.—Feline health studies  Anna Miklasinska, N.Y.—Feline health studies  Dr. Elinor Miller, Del.—In memory of Bootse; in honor of Dr. Lynne Craine  Dr. Lloyd E. Miller, N.Y.—General contribution  James and Marian Mills, Pa.—In honor of Shiloh, Kedryn, Madison, Dana, and Demetra  Katherine and Robert Munsey, Calif.—In memory of Paco  North Coast Cat Fanciers, Ohio.—Feline infectious peritonitis studies  Dr. Cecilia A. Oh, N.Y.—General contribution  Patricia A. Petro, Va.—In memory of Tuffy  Helen and John Putre, Va.—Feline health studies  Richard N. Recinelli, N.Y.—In memory of Maxine and Anisette  Terri L. Reicher, Md.—In memory of Sasha  Shirley M. Rigano, N.Y.—In memory of Pumpkin  Sandra L. Simpson, N.J.—In memory of Minnie  Nancy Slabough, Pa.—In memory of Milo and Ladybug  Philip Smith and Alberto Barcenas, Mass.—In memory of Jude  Janet C. Spadora, N.H.—In memory of Teddy  Dr. Ingrid Spatt, N.Y.—In memory of Marcello, Thumper, Rudy, and Blackie  Christopher P. Spidle, Ill.—In memory of Sabrina  Frank and Rose Swiskey, N.Y.—In memory of Tugger and Buttercup  Henry P. Trawick, Jr., Fla.—General contribution  Sally Verrinder, Wash.—In memory of Scooter Whitney/Cook and Newman Smith  Carol Weiser and Dennis Oberholtzer, Pa.—In memory of Josie Giglio and Chessie and Peanut Ziel/Schellenberg  Katein Welles, Md.—Feline health studies  Daria L. Woodruff, Pa.—In memory of Perro  Thomas and Jane Yarborough, Va.—In memory of Miss Kitty, Black Beauty, and Scruffy

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Feline Health Center Scholarship  Established in 1999 by an anonymous donor, the Feline Health Center Scholarship was created to provide assistance to deserving veterinary students who have a clear and demonstrable financial need, who have been judged by the faculty to be in good standing academically, and who demonstrate an interest in feline medicine. Preference is given to fourth-year veterinary students.

Danielle Armato, Class of 2007

“Before I knew where I wanted to go to high school, I knew that I wanted to go to Cornell veterinary school because that’s where Dr. Gary studied.”

Hometown: Bayside, New York

Current companion animals: Mister, a seven-year-old black male neutered domestic shorthair with three legs, adopted from the animal hospital where she worked in Queens. And Nola, a one-year-old black female domestic shorthair, that Armato diagnosed (during her soft-tissue-surgery rotation) as having lungworms (which prohibited the spay surgery for which the cat had been brought to Cornell from the local animal shelter), fostered back to health, spayed — and then officially adopted.

First interest in being a veterinarian: On the wall in her parents’ house hangs a picture that she drew in kindergarten, in response to the question “What do you want to be when you grow up?” In the picture, she is a veterinarian attending to a cat. She credits her mother’s compassion for animals as her inspiration.

Cornell veterinarian who influenced studies: Her family veterinarian, Gary Baum, DVM ’68, currently practicing in Lynbrook, New York — always extremely supportive of Armato and her career goal.

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Clinics. Her first clinical rotation was oncology and her first patient was a cat, Anise, who had lymphoma. Armato says she will never forget the case because she lived through it with the cat and played a part in her care. Individual animals and the way in which they manifest particular diseases are the best way for her to learn medicine, she says.

Career plans: An internship after graduation, then a residency in medical oncology. Live in New York City.
**Advanced Radiation Therapy**

The Feline Health Center has completed its five-year commitment of support, having provided $125,000 to assist with the purchase of a digital linear accelerator—an advanced radiation therapy unit—for the Isidor L. and Sylvia M. Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The state-of-the-art equipment is used to treat feline cancer patients at Cornell. Perhaps even more importantly, work with the linear accelerator is being used to learn how best to treat other cats with cancer, not just those fortunate enough to be patients at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Investigations are ongoing to determine the optimal course of treatment for cats with cancer and to combine treatment modalities such as chemotherapy with radiation therapy.

In the photograph, Margaret McEntee, associate professor of oncology at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine, reads a feline patient for radiation therapy.

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**Preliminary Studies of Docetaxel in Tumor-Bearing Cats**

**Investigator:** Margaret McEntee, DVM, associate professor of oncology, Department of Clinical Sciences

Docetaxel is one of the most effective human anticancer drugs, but adverse reactions are encountered, specifically hypersensitivity reactions, when docetaxel is given intravenously to cats.

In a continuation of clinical studies funded by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Margaret McEntee investigated docetaxel when given orally to cats. She treated cats presented to Cornell University Hospital for Animals that were afflicted with advanced cancer, had failed previous therapies, and were voluntarily enrolled by their owners in the clinical trial.

McEntee confirmed that the pharmacokinetic disposition of docetaxel given orally leads to systemic drug levels that should result in clinical responses. These findings lay the groundwork for future studies to determine the efficacy of docetaxel against specific types of cancer in cats.
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Federico Scholarship  Established in 2004 by the Trust of Mildred G. Federico, this scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who has demonstrated financial need, has been judged by the faculty to be in good standing academically, and has a demonstrated interest in feline medicine.

April Rogers, Class of 2007
“Strengthening the human-animal bond is extremely important to me. What better way to accomplish this goal than by taking care of feline companions!”

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Current companion animals: Coal, a two-and-a-half-year-old who chose me two years ago when I visited the Tompkins County SPCA shelter.

First interest in being a veterinarian: At the age of eight, recruited by a neighbor child to fix a stray pup’s broken leg (what she now realizes must have been a very old closed forelimb fracture), Rogers felt sadness and frustration when she didn’t know how to make a splint. “From that moment on, I decided I never again wanted not to know what to do. Veterinary medicine was an easy choice.”

Cornell veterinarian who influenced studies: Stephen J. Ettinger, DVM ’64. During high school, Rogers met a veterinarian Ettinger had mentored, Brannon Woods, who, in turn, taught her about running a veterinary hospital, practicing good medicine, interacting with clients, and the value of hard work. When Dr. Woods passed away unexpectedly, Dr. Ettinger did not hesitate in picking up as her mentor. She has worked for two summers at his practice, California Animal Hospital, and he introduced her to specialty medicine.

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Small-animal clinical rotations—they are the manifestation of all the hard work and sacrifice, a career foundation.

Career plans: Small-animal rotating internship at the California Animal Hospital in July 2007, then a residency in emergency and critical care medicine or internal medicine.
Ryane Englhar, Class of 2008

"I have seen those moments that one would rather forget—the hit-by-cars, the panicked look of an animal in pain, degenerative cancer cases, the chaos of emergencies. But I have seen the miracles, too."

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

Current companion animals: Nina and Bailey, our Tonkinese cats, who are among the most social, outgoing, talkative, brilliant cats I have ever met.

First interest in being a veterinarian: Englhar recalls the awe that she felt as a six-year-old bringing her kitten, Tiger, to the veterinary clinic for the very first time. Ultimately it was Tiger and the fascination with watching him grow, she says, that fueled her passion for veterinary medicine.

Why feline medicine? Englhar has been employed since age 14 at a local veterinary clinic. "I have seen outbreaks of parvovirus outside, just in time to save the very last pup," she says. "I have seen new lives, second chances, and reunions between owners and animals we thought wouldn’t make it through the night. The small-animal clinic is where I first found a place for veterinary medicine in my heart. I cannot imagine straying too far from it, if just because of the magic and beauty I have found in walking those halls. The power of the human–companion animal bond draws me in every time."

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Her work as an active member and co-president of Cornell University’s Pet Loss Support Hotline. She has learned that "there is no timeline for grief, that the human spirit is powerful and the human heart giving." She says that the experience has taught her how to be a more compassionate veterinarian.

Career plans: Small-animal or specialty practice, with emphasis on internal medicine.
Resources for Cat People

The Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Feline Consultation and Diagnostic Service

Named in honor of a beloved veterinarian, Louis J. Camuti (1894–1981), known affectionately to many as “the Cat Doctor,” this telephone consultation service provides individualized assistance to veterinarians and cat lovers. Dr. Camuti was the first veterinarian in the United States to devote his entire practice to cats, making house calls on cats and their owners for more than 60 years.

A growing endowment supports the service, allowing the Cornell Feline Health Center's consulting veterinarians to provide expert advice based on the most current information available in feline medicine. The consulting veterinarians also serve as liaisons with the college’s Animal Health Diagnostic Center. Accurate diagnosis of diseases enables veterinarians to prescribe the most effective treatment for feline ailments.

1-800-KITTY-DR (1-800-548-8937)

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The 18th Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium

A premier feline continuing education program that annually draws veterinarians from all over the world. Every year, seminars and workshops offer veterinarians and professionals current information on a broad array of feline health issues.

Topics presented this year included:

- Indoor housing: Implications for health and disease
- Recognition of pain in cats
- Pediatric anesthesia
- Management of perioperative and acute pain
- Management of chronic pain
- Infection of cats by Mycoplasma haemofelis and Mycoplasma haemominutum
- Dysmyelopoiesis in the cat: primary or secondary disease?
- Body condition: relationship to disease and management strategies
- Update on feline liver disease

The yearly Fred Scott Feline Symposium is named in honor of Fred W. Scott, DVM, PhD, first director of the Cornell Feline Health Center and professor emeritus of virology in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

www.vet.cornell.edu/extension/conedu
Jessie D. and Denny W. Speidel Scholarship in Feline Medicine
This scholarship, established by Patricia S. Cope '50 in honor of her parents, provides assistance to deserving, qualified veterinary students with demonstrated financial need. Preference is given to third- or fourth-year students in good academic standing who show an interest in feline medicine and plan to pursue a career in the field. A related fund established by Ms. Cope reimburses the costs of the scholars' textbooks and supplies.

Laura Engel, Class of 2007
"Animal shelters provide a great service to the community."

Hometown: Clifton Park, New York

First interest in being a veterinarian: When she was about six years old. She always has had a love for animals and a desire to help them.

Cornell veterinarians who influenced studies: David Wolfe, DVM '66, and his staff at Shaker Veterinary Hospital (Latham, New York) have greatly influenced Engel. Her work at the clinic through college and veterinary school has taught her a great deal about practicing quality veterinary medicine, she says.

Why feline medicine? Engel has a specific interest in shelter medicine, especially disease-control and spay/neuter programs. "Cats make up a large part of the population of most shelters," she says. "It is rewarding to take part in spay/neuter clinics for shelters that help reduce overpopulation."

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Classes and rotations in soft-tissue surgery. She likes learning about various surgical procedures and having opportunities to develop her surgical skills.

Career plans: Enter a small-animal practice—since she enjoys many aspects of veterinary medicine, she would like to continue to explore different opportunities. Plans to donate time and skills to help shelters provide adequate care to their animals.
Kristin MacLauchlan, Class of 2007

“As I learned more and more about cats and the medicine behind helping them, I realized that I had found my niche.”

Hometown: Fairport, New York

Current companion animals: A recently adopted 15-week-old black kitten (found after having been hit by a car—broken ribs, femur, and pelvis), doing great after a surgery to plate his femur; Mama, a five-year-old tortoise-shell; and Grey Guy, a three-year-old domestic short hair.

First interest in being a veterinarian: She grew up around animals and recalls always loving to play with and take care of them. It was volunteering at animal hospitals—specifically Cats Exclusively (Pittsford, New York)—that made her certain about wanting to become first a veterinarian and then a feline specialist.

“The staff there is one of a kind in their professionalism, work ethic, community service, and compassion, and I knew then that I would be lucky ever to work for such a practice as a clinician.”

Cornell veterinarians who influenced studies: Paul Black, DVM ’82, an “extremely kind and supportive” veterinarian whom MacLauchlan met while working at the Monroe Animal Hospital (Rochester, New York), and Eileen Adamo, DVM 97, with whom she worked at Cats Exclusively.

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Feline infectious diseases taught by Stephen Barr, and antimicrobials taught by Wayne Schwark. And clinical rotations have been fantastic—a great way to finally understand certain disease processes and integrate all the information from classes.

Career plans: Would like to work as an emergency clinician for a few years and then in a feline practice with a clinic that works with the local humane society or feral-cat organization.

- A Country Cat House–Miami, Fla.
- Albuquerque Cat Clinic, Inc.–Albuquerque, N. Mex.
- Animal General, L.L.C.–Avon, Conn.
- Animal Medical Center–Herrdon, Va.
- Dr. Rebecca Erin Seacord Baker–Willards, Md.
- Baldwin Harbor Animal Hospital, P.C.–Baldwin, N.Y.
- Brook Farm Veterinary Center–Patterson, N.Y.
- Bryan Animal Hospital–Mount Holly, N.J.
- Burlington Veterinary Center–Burlington, Conn.
- Dr. Kathy Carlson–Tyler, Tex.
- Cat Care Clinic of Ormond Beach, Inc.–Ormond Beach, Fla.
- Cat Doctor–Columbus, Ohio
- Cat Doctor, Inc.–Estero, Fla.
- Cat Hospital of Durham/Chapel Hill–Durham, N.C.
- Cat Care Hospital–Greensboro, N.C.
- Cat Hospital of Petaluma–Petaluma, Calif.
- Centreville Animal Hospital, Inc.–Centreville, Va.
- Community Veterinary Hospital–Mamaroneck, N.Y.
- Companion Animal Clinic–Fairfax Station, Va.
- Companion Animal Hospital–Groton, Conn.
- Farmington Veterinary Clinic–Farmington, Maine
- Feline Hospital–Salem, Mass.
- Gardens Veterinary Hospital–Cranberry Township, Pa.
- Dr. Jessica Rankin Gibson–Los Angeles, Calif.
- Godspeed Animal Care–Williamsburg, Va.
- Goshen Animal Clinic–Gaithersburg, Md.
- Greenwich Animal Hospital, P.C.–Greenwich, Conn.
- Layhill Animal Hospital–Silver Spring, Md.
- Lums Pond Animal Hospital–Bear, Del.
- Manchester Veterinary Clinic, Inc.–Manchester, Conn.
- Manheim Pike Veterinary Hospital–Lancaster, Pa.
- Marsh Hospital for Animals–Verona, N.J.
- Millhopper Veterinary Medical Center–Gainesville, Fla.
- Matawan Animal Hospital–Matawan, N.J.
- Mayfair Animal Hospital–Carry, N.C.
- Moriches Hospital for Animals–Center Moriches, N.Y.
- Morrisville Cat Hospital, P.L.L.C.–Morrisville, N.C.
- Norwin Veterinary Hospital–North Huntington, Pa.
- Oakland Animal Hospital–Oakland, N.J.
- Oakton-Vienna Veterinary Hospital–Vienna, Va.
- Port Animal Hospital, L.L.C.–Port Washington, N.Y.
- Quarry Ridge Animal Hospital–Ridgefield, Conn.
- Rancho Bernardo Veterinary Clinic, Inc.–San Diego, Calif.
- Dr. Franklin W. Rapp–Schenectady, N.Y.
- Rye Harrison Veterinary Hospital, P.L.L.C.–Rye, N.Y.
- Sakonnet Veterinary Hospital–Tiverton, R.I.
- Saugerties Animal Hospital–Saugerties, N.Y.
- Somers Animal Hospital–Somers, N.Y.
- Springville Animal Hospital, P.C.–Springville, N.Y.
- University Drive Veterinary Hospital–State College, Pa.
- VCA Hemingway Cat Hospital–Saratoga, Calif.
- Winsted Hospital for Animals, P.C.–Barkhamsted, Conn.

Honoring those who gave $200–299
- A Cat Clinic–Germantown, Md.
- All Creatures Veterinary Hospital–Seneca Falls, N.Y.
- Animal Hospital of Greenwich-Stamford–Stamford, Conn.
Publications

Client education brochures, which can be obtained from veterinarians, are developed by the Cornell Feline Health Center and the American Association of Feline Practitioners. Current titles include Choosing and Caring for Your New Cat, Feeding Your Cat, Feline Behavior Problems (House Soiling, Aggression, Destructive Behavior), Feline Vaccines: Benefits and Risks, The Special Needs of the Senior Cat, Vaccines and Sarcoma, Feline Infectious Peritonitis, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, Feline Leukemia Virus, Diabetes in Cats, Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, Gastrointestinal Parasites of Cats, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and What Can I Catch from my Cat? To order brochures, practitioners should call Pamela Sackett at (607) 253-3443.

Feline Health Topics for Veterinarians is a quarterly publication provided to veterinarians who are members of the Feline Health Center.

CatWatch, the Newsletter for Cat People, is available by subscription or free to members of the Feline Health Center. This monthly newsletter contains a wealth of useful information to help cat lovers keep their cats healthy and happy.

The Cornell Book of Cats, now in its second edition, is heralded as “a virtual encyclopedia for cat owners,” and “perhaps the best buy around for anyone living with a cat, and a definite must for inclusion in any cat library.” The book, written in language understandable to cat owners, is the work of many authorities and is exhaustive in scope, covering feline medicine, surgery, nutrition, behavior, pediatrics, geriatrics, reproduction, and many other topics.

On-line Videos
Home Care for Cats

Videos on the Web Site

To help people provide basic home care for their cats, the Feline Health Center has developed a series of live-action videos that offer step-by-step instructions. The videos are free and simple to use—they provide clear, easy-to-understand explanations and animated details for a variety of topics popular with cat owners.

The site currently includes videos about:

Caring for Your Diabetic Cat
Giving Your Cat a Pill or Capsule
Giving Your Cat Liquid Medications
Trimming Your Cat's Claws
Taking Your Cat's Temperature
Brushing Your Cat's Teeth

Videos on additional topics will be available in the future.

To watch the videos you need Micromedia Flash Player. If you don’t have this application on your computer, click on the Flash Player plug-in button on the lower left corner of the feline videos homepage. Follow the simple instructions at the Download Center (click “Download Now”), and the software you need to watch the videos will be installed. (It’s the same process whether you use a Macintosh or Windows computer.)

www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu

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- Cobleskill Veterinary Clinic—Cobleskill, N.Y.
- College Point Animal Hospital, P.C.—College Point, N.Y.
- Country Cat Clinic—Plymouth, Mich.
- Drs. Eileen and Scott Dalton—Riverview, Fla.
- Eagle Rock Veterinary Hospital—West Orange, N.J.
- Eastview Veterinary Clinic—Penn Yan, N.Y.
- Estates Animal Hospital—Jamaica Estates, N.Y.
- Flower Valley Veterinary Clinic, Inc.—Rockville, Md.
- For Cats Only, Inc.—West Palm Beach, Fla.
- Glenelg Animal Hospital, Inc.—Glenelg, Md.
- Dr. Ellen B. Hikes—Lisle, Ill.
- Dr. Karen's Animal Hospital, Inc.—Port Charlotte, Fla.
- Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center—Bedford Hills, N.Y.
- Lyndon Veterinary Clinic—Fayetteville, N.Y.
- Medina’s Veterinary Clinic—Madison, Conn.
- Medway Animal Hospital—Medway, Mass.
- Dr. Alan S. Meyer—Mount Vernon, N.Y.
- Meyer Veterinary Services, Inc.—Louisville, Ky.
- Dr. Judith A. Milcarsky—Daytona Beach, Fla.
- Millstone Veterinary Clinic—Dundee, N.Y.
- Monticello Animal Hospital—Monticello, N.Y.
- New England Cat Care, L.L.C.—Woodbridge, Conn.
- Dr. Russell Petro—Valley Cottage, N.Y.
- Dr. Raymond S. Pray—Batavia, N.Y.
- Quaker Animal Hospital—Queensbury, N.Y.
- Ridge Animal Hospital—Middleport, N.Y.
- Dr. Ronald A. Scharf—Niskayuna, N.Y.
- Dr. Alan B. Schreier—Pleasantville, N.Y.
- Scott, Henry, and Rosen, P.C.—Deer Park, N.Y.
- Somers Point Veterinary Hospital—Somers Point, N.J.
- Somerset Animal Hospital—Princess Anne, Md.
- South Windsor Veterinary Clinic, L.L.C.—South Windsor, Conn.
- Springfield Animal Hospital, Inc.—Springfield, Va.
- Stack Hospital for Pets—Fayetteville, N.Y.
- Dr. Elizabeth Stoakes—Lee's Summit, Mo.
- Vet on Wheels, L.L.C.—Upper Montclair, N.J.
- Veterinary Associates of North Branford—North Branford, Conn.
- Veterinary Medical Associates—Canton, Conn.
- Viking Community Animal Hospital—North Canton, Ohio
- West Park Veterinary Services—Houma, La.
- Westfield Animal Clinic, Inc.—Westfield, Mass.
- Weymouth Landing Cat Clinic and Hotel—Weymouth, Mass.
- White Pine Veterinary Clinic—Park City, Utah
- Windsor Veterinary Clinic—Windsor, Maine
- Honoring those who gave up to $100 All Pets Medical Center—Smyrna, Del.
- Dr. Terry Flint Allen—Penfield, N.Y.
- Animal Medical Center of Greensboro—Greensboro, N.C.
- Animal Medical Hospital of Belair Road—Overlea, Md.
- Dr. Jennifer Lee Arcand—Royal Oak, Mich.
- Dr. Christine Armado—Ithaca, N.Y.
- Arrowhead Veterinary Clinic—Fairfax, Va.
- Baker House Animal Hospital—Morrow, Ohio
- Dr. Gerald K. Beekman—York, Maine
- Dr. Michelle A. Bianco—Barre, Mass.
- Bigger Road Veterinary
Gina Olmsted, Class of 2008

“Even though they don’t speak, animals say volumes. And they have an amazing ability to sense how we feel, to comfort us, and to love us. I feel a connection with animals and I feel I was meant to help them.”

Hometown: Commack, New York

Current companion animals: Grace, a 13-year-old gray-and-white domestic short-hair; Teddy, an eight-year-old smoky-gray domestic long-hair; Cherub, an eight-year-old tortoise-shell cat; and Jubilee, a nine-year-old dilute tortoise-shell.

First interest in being a veterinarian: Seventh-grade research paper on veterinary medicine. She realized then that the veterinary profession would give her the best of both worlds—helping people while helping animals. “I also remember the day my family adopted our first cat, Angel, from an emergency clinic. (She had been hit by a car, resulting in severe injuries and a permanent jaw deformity.) Despite the pain she was affectionate and outgoing. Angel and I grew up together, and she lived a long, full life. The veterinary team that saved her life gave our family a special gift.”

Cornell veterinarian who influenced studies: Gary Klossow, DVM ’74, for whom she worked at the Cornman Animal Hospital on Long Island while she was in high school. He will be the honored guest who coats Olmsted at the college’s white-coat ceremony this December.

Favorite Cornell academic experience: The clinical focus of Block 5A. “Some of the best lectures I have had at Cornell were included in this course and they served to further weave the academic knowledge together with the clinical side of medicine.”

Career plans: Internship first and then work with (and maybe someday own) a small-animal hospital on Long Island.
Anne Romano, Class of 2007

“What better way to be around cats all day than to become a vet and make sure they are healthy and happy?”

Hometown: Miami, Florida (18 years), now Tampa, Florida

Current companion animals: Guenhwyvar, a three-year-old black domestic shorthair—a feisty feline who loves using Romano as a human pillow, especially when she studies at night.

First interest in being a veterinarian: According to her mother, Romano’s first words were “I see kitty.” Since those early years, she has developed a deep love of felines from house cats to tigers. “I am fascinated by the grace and dexterity of cats as well as by their unique anatomical, physiological, and behavioral characteristics.”

Favorite Cornell academic experience: Performing her first spay on a cat during junior surgery. The experience helped her develop surgical skills and feel more confident in performing this surgery on other felines when she participates in feral cat spay-and-neuter clinics.

Career plans: First, a small-animal medicine and surgery internship in South Florida, then a residency—and marriage (to her significant other, Chad Valdes). Professional goal: certification in feline practice. Professional dream: opening a feline clinic near a major zoo, being her own boss, and having the flexibility to work with a zoo or theme park in caring for its felines.
Opportunities for Support

Your support makes a difference. The majority of our work is funded through private contributions from friends of the Cornell Feline Health Center, alumni, and veterinarians. Listed below are some of the ways you can become involved in the center’s activities.

Memorial Program for Feline Companions
The loss of a beloved cat can be a truly devastating experience, sometimes causing emotions as intense as those felt over the loss of any other family member. Expressions of compassion and understanding can be immensely comforting to those who have experienced the loss. A memorial contribution in the cat’s name shows your sensitivity in a way that will help cats live healthier lives. Veterinarians should call Don Personius at (607) 253-3414; others call Sheryl Thomas at (607) 253-3001.

Membership
The Feline Health Center offers membership plans for both veterinarians and cat owners. Your membership dollars enable us to support feline health studies consistent with our mission and publish and disseminate current information about feline health care. To subscribe or set up a gift membership, call Kathy Mospan at (607) 253-3093.

Cash Gifts
Cash contributions provide necessary financial resources to help the Feline Health Center respond to the needs of cats. You may be able to increase the impact of your gift through a matching gift from your employer. Ask your employer for details on the company’s matching-gift policy.

Planned Gifts
Unlike cash gifts, planned gifts provide financial resources for the Feline Health Center’s future while allowing you to enjoy immediate tax benefits and/or income based on the investment type you choose. If you would like to discuss any of the options listed below, please contact Brad Carruth, Cornell Office of Trusts, Estates, and Gift Planning at (800) 377-2177.

Bequests. You can help ensure better health for future generations of cats by naming the center as a beneficiary in your will. To accomplish this, use these words: “I give, devise, and bequeath [description of property] to Cornell University, an educational corporation situated in Ithaca, New York, for the exclusive benefit of the Cornell Feline Health Center within the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine.”

Life Income Agreements. This option allows you to make the Feline Health Center the remainder beneficiary of a trust you create during your lifetime while retaining income for yourself and/or a second beneficiary. You receive an immediate tax deduction when you create your trust.

Trusts. By establishing a trust, donors either name the Feline Health Center as the trust beneficiary or place assets in a trust fund that will generate income for the center over a specified term.

Stocks. Through your gift of appreciated securities, stocks, or bonds to the Feline Health Center, you may avoid some or all of the capital gains tax by deducting their full current market value as a charitable contribution.

Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund
Louis J. Camuti, a well-known doctor in the New York metropolitan area, was the first veterinarian in the United States to devote his entire practice to cats. For more than 60 years, Dr. Camuti made house calls for his feline patients. Following his death in 1981, friends sought to honor his memory through the creation of the Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund. Together with a small consultation fee, this fund helps defray the Cornell Feline Health Center’s costs of approximately $100,000 a year to operate the Camuti Memorial Feline Consultation and Diagnostic Service 1-800-KITTY-OR (1-800-548-8937). Cat lovers, breeders, and veterinarians worldwide use this service to obtain information on feline ailments and treatment options. Contributions to help maintain this fund are welcome.

www.vet.cornell.edu/FHC

“I love cats because I love my home and after a while they become its visible soul.”
— Jean Cocteau