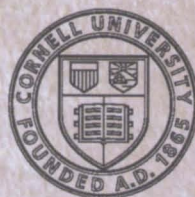


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Cornell
Feline
Health
Center
Annual
Report
2007



Cornell University
Feline Health Center

Mission

To improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere by:

- Finding ways of preventing and curing diseases of cats by conducting and sponsoring breakthrough feline health studies
- Educating veterinarians and cat owners about feline health by providing timely medical information and by promoting public understanding and awareness of feline issues
- Aiding veterinarians when new or unknown feline diseases occur

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Cornell Feline Health Center

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Ithaca, NY 14853-6401

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Fax: (607) 253-3419

Camuti Memorial Consultation Line:
1-800-KITTYDR (1-800-548-8937)

Web site:
www.vet.cornell.edu/FHC

Administrative Staff

Fred W. Scott, DVM, PhD, interim director

Michael S. Lenetsky, administrative manager

Kathleen M. Mospan, Donald K. Personius,
Pamela E. Sackett, and Sheryl A. Thomas,
administrative assistants



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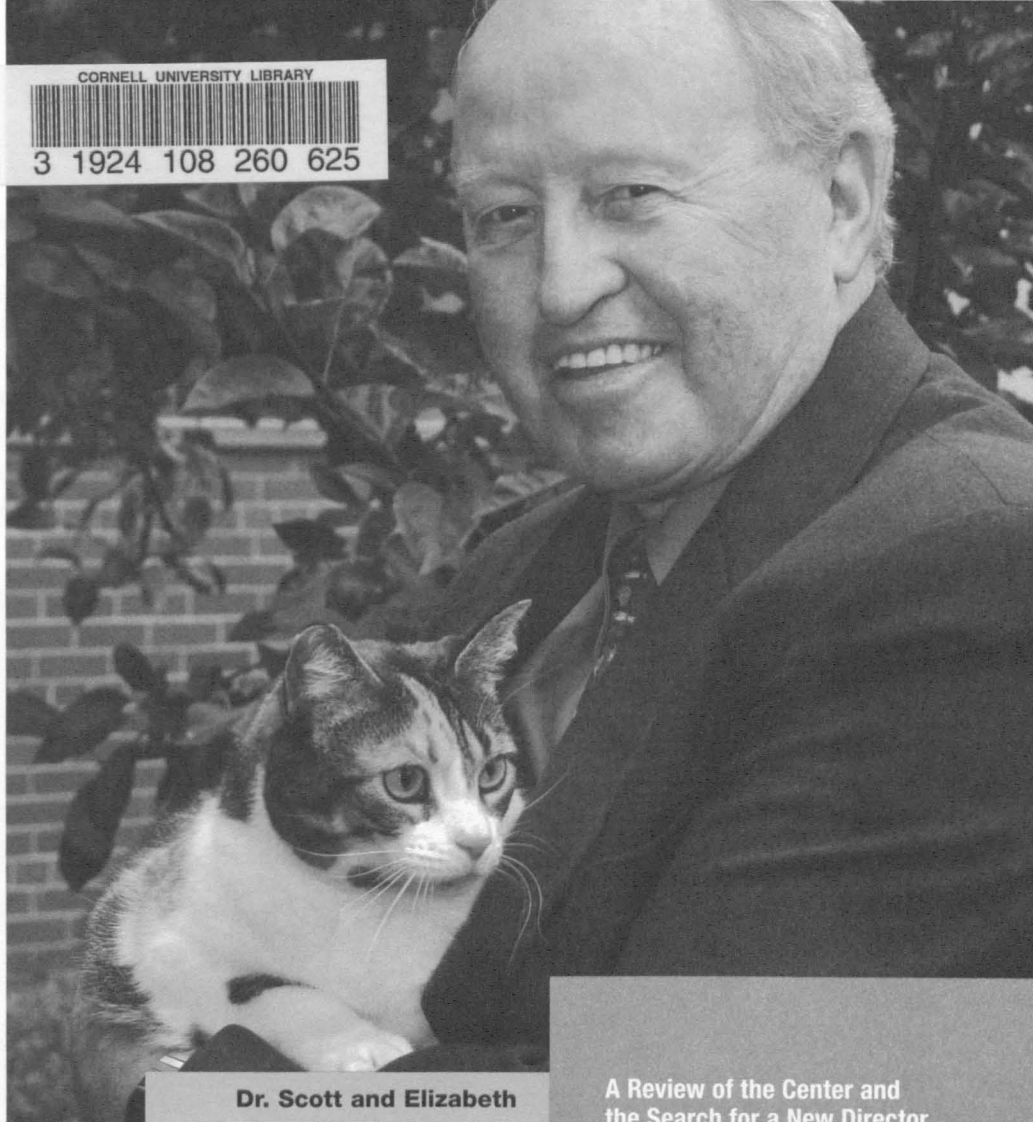
The year 2007 was a difficult year at the Cornell Feline Health Center with the loss of our director, Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. In late April, Dr. Richards, director of the FHC for the past 10 years, died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. This was a traumatic experience for all who knew Jim and his great dedication to improve the health and welfare of all his kitties that he so loved.

The staff of the center struggle as we try to recover from our great loss. We have very dedicated staff members who are totally committed to our mission, so that even the loss of a dear friend, mentor, and dedicated public servant will not deter us from moving forward with enthusiasm.

I am pleased to share with you some of the exciting things that happened at the center during 2007, the 33rd year of our existence, as we continue to improve the health and welfare of kitties everywhere. Dr. Richards had been actively involved in two national campaigns for which he was the official American Association of Feline Practitioners spokesperson. "Healthy Cats for Life" is a national public information campaign to help cat owners and lovers take better care of their cats. The second is the "Know Heartworm" campaign to inform veterinarians and cat owners about the newer information and dangers of feline heartworm disease.

One exciting project is the production of cat-care videos and DVDs (see details in this report) under the outstanding leadership of our colleague, Jodi Korich, DVM '97, instructor in the section of curriculum in the Department of Clinical Sciences. The Feline Health Center funded several feline research projects during the past year, and these are highlighted in this report, as well.

After 10 years of retirement (a 10-year "sabbatical leave"), I was appointed interim director of the center on May 1, to serve until a new director can be hired. While I would much prefer to have Dr. Richards continue as director, and



Dr. Scott and Elizabeth

to read his introduction to this annual report, it has been a privilege for me to once again be associated with this unique entity, the Cornell Feline Health Center, and to see firsthand the accomplishments made during the past 10 years.

I hope this report will give you a glimpse of the past year's happenings at the Feline Health Center. I thank you for your continued support. It is only through your support that the center can continue to exist and to improve the health and welfare of cats.

Fred W. Scott, DVM, PhD
Interim Director,
Cornell Feline Health Center

A Review of the Center and the Search for a New Director

In July, Michael Kotlikoff, dean of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, appointed a strategic planning committee to review the programs, staff, finances, publications, and space of the Feline Health Center. The committee is composed of eight faculty and staff members from the college, plus the president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners. The committee's recommendations have been reported to the dean, and in early 2008 a search committee will start a national search to identify a new director. This is a great opportunity for the Feline Health Center, and we look forward with anticipation to the possible reorganization of our center so that we can improve and expand our mission, both within the college and throughout the country.

Evaluation of serum cobalamin, folate, and amino acids in captive tigers (*Panthera tigris*)

Investigators:

Elizabeth M. Bunting, VMD, resident in exotic and wildlife medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences

George V. Kollias, DVM, PhD, Jay Hyman Professor of Wildlife Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences

Kenneth W. Simpson, BVM&S, PhD, professor of small-animal medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences

Ned J. Place, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences

Ellen S. Dierenfeld, MS, PhD, nutritionist, St. Louis Zoo, and adjunct professor, Cornell University Department of Animal Science

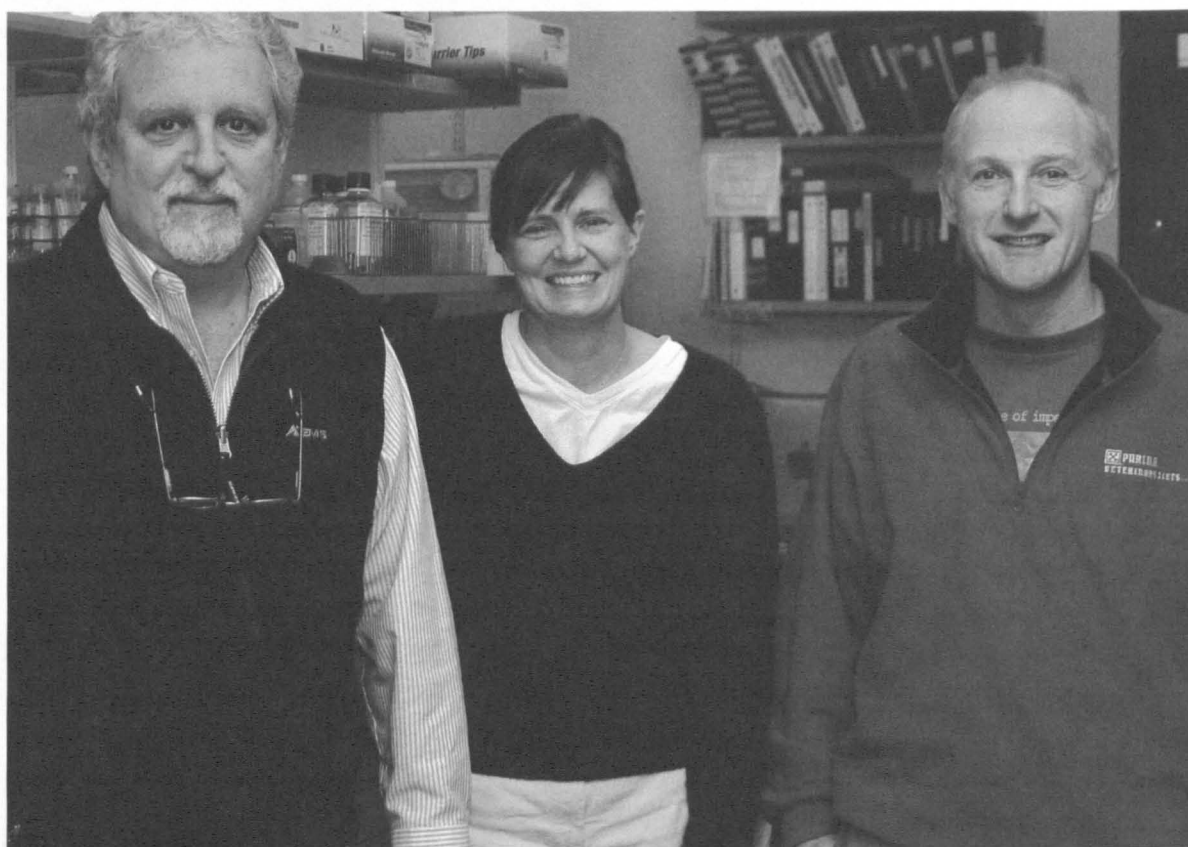
There are few published studies on specific nutritional requirements of exotic cats, and many laboratory tests lack reference ranges. This study is evaluating serum and dietary cobalamin (vitamin B12) and folate (vitamin B9), the cobalamin-dependent metabolites

homocysteine and methyl malonic acid, and serum amino acid profiles in captive tigers.

In dogs and cats, low serum cobalamin and folate values indicate gastrointestinal disease. Serum cobalamin and folate measurements from

six healthy captive tigers and one with spinal disease were well below expected values compared to normal domestic cats. These preliminary data are being expanded by validation of cobalamin and folate immunassays and comparison of the results

to those achieved by bioassay. Using the validated assay, serum cobalamin and folate levels are being compiled from at least 20 of the 150 captive tigers in North American zoos to produce a normal reference range.



Drs. George Kollias, Elizabeth Bunting, and Kenneth Simpson

Honor Roll Donors July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007

\$25,000 and more The Clara L.D. Jeffery Trust, N.Y.—Educational video development
\$10,000–24,999 Mr. and Mrs. Ellice McDonald, Jr., Del.—Where most needed
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Some of our friends chose to give their gift to the Feline Health Center through the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund (as indicated in the Honor Roll list).

Evaluation of serum iohexol clearance to predict carboplatin clearance in cats

Investigators (all in the Department of Clinical Sciences):

Dennis Bailey, DVM, lecturer in medical oncology

Kenneth M. Rassnick, DVM, assistant professor

Nathan Dykes, DVM, senior lecturer in radiology

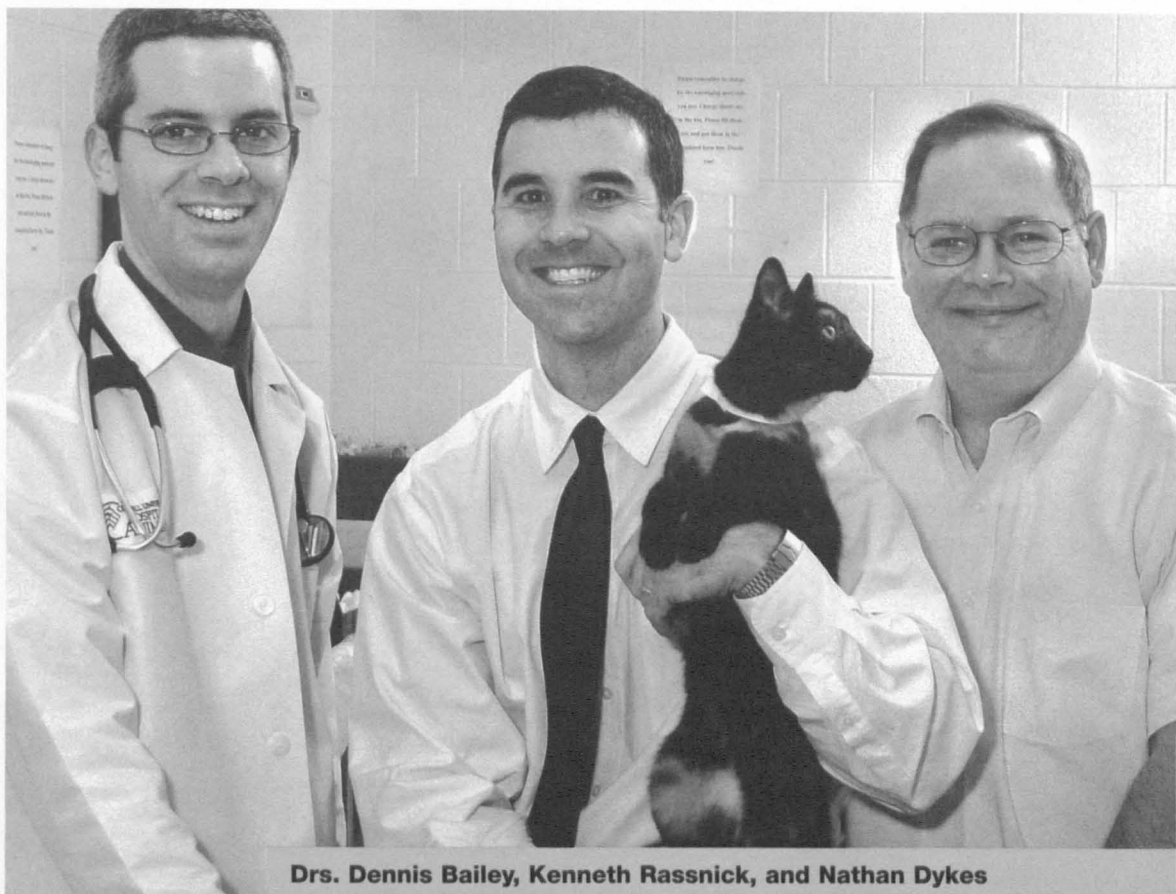
In cats, the dose-limiting toxicity of the chemotherapy drug carboplatin is neutropenia (low neutrophil count, one of the white blood cells). When dosing is based on body surface area (BSA), there is a significant interpatient variation with respect to the severity of neutropenia, the timing of the neutrophil nadir, and the time until the neutrophil count returns to within the normal reference range. The investigators recently completed a pharmacokinetic analysis of carboplatin in cats, and developed a new dosing equation and strategy to predict toxicity of this drug

based on glomerular or kidney filtration rate (GFR) and BSA. This procedure, however, required specialized equipment and radio-labeled compounds.

Recently a commercial company has made available a GFR assay for cats

based on serum clearance of iohexol, making it possible for any veterinarian to measure GFR easily. The hypothesis is that GFR measurement based on serum clearance of iohexol will accurately predict carboplatin clearance. The objective of this study is to develop a

dosing strategy for the use of carboplatin chemotherapy in cats that not only is safe and accurately predicts toxicity but also is practical and widely available for use by veterinarians to effectively treat cancer in cats.



Drs. Dennis Bailey, Kenneth Rassnick, and Nathan Dykes

• **Carol Kay Stocker, III**,—In honor of HRH Bearhaus Bear Lee Ngu U • **William and Janet Wesson**, N.H.—Where most needed • **Edna Wheeler**, N.Y.—In memory of Midnight • **Estate of Edward M. Whitbeck**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Mrs. Joanne M. Williams**, N.J.—In memory of Charlie • **Michael Zemsky**, Va.—Feline health studies • **\$500-999 Anonymous friend**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Marie and Roy Augsberger**, Conn.—In memory of Spot and Alvin • **Dr. Alan C. Baum**, N.Y.—Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund • **Dr. and Mrs. Gary M. Baum**, N.Y.—Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund • **Susan Burger**, N.Y.—In memory of Dusty, Tuffy, and Honey • **James Calore and Patricia Mozzicato**, N.J.—In memory of Goldie, Lox, and P.C. • **Joseph S. Casula**, Md.—In memory of Freddie Grimes • **Robert Causey**, Calif.—In memory of Critter • **Mr. Theodore Chu**, N.Y.—In memory of Schatzi • **Mary Ann Clifford and family**, Tex.—In memory of Feathers, Spanky, Tammy Fae, Miss Pansy, Nana, and Meme • **Dr. Paul J. Corwin**, N.Y.—Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund • **Nina C. Danielsen**, N.J.—Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund • **Ms. Carol W. Dean**, N.Y.—In memory of Bart, Cinder, and Abby • **Martha J. Dodge**, N.Y.—In memory of Tiffany and Samantha • **Ms. Elisabeth Dogot**, Wisc.—In memory of Sophia • **Brian and Sadie Finnegan**, Calif.—In memory of Patches, Cyrano, Roxane, Cosette, and Fuffie • **Ann R. Hardy**, N.J.—William Ledoux Memorial Fund in memory of Icy • **Michael and Judith Healey**, N.J.—In memory of "all of our cats" • **Margo Hebold**, Calif.—In memory of Dr. Mew • **Dr. Duane E. Huwe, III**—Where most needed • **Leanna I. Jensen**, N.Y.—In memory of Pumpkin, Murphy, Smokey, Muffin, Wheezer, and Buster • **Mr. Myron E. Johnston, Jr.**, Va.—In memory of Snoopy and Lovey • **Sharon Kapple**, N.Mex.—In honor of Cincinnati Red • **Mark Katz and Naomi Kartin**, Calif.—In honor of Dr. Peter Slusser and the staff of Animal Internal Medicine • **Dr. John R. Leahy**, N.Y.—In memory of Dr. Jean Holzworth • **Audrey Lobdell**, N.Y.—In memory of Princess Amanda • **Frank and Helayne Maurer**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Sarah Medvitz**, Fla.—Where most needed • **Anna Miklasinska**, N.Y.—Where most needed/feline health studies • **Dr. Lloyd E. Miller**, N.Y.—Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund • **Joanne Miserandino**, N.Y.—In memory of Leo • **Mrs. Frances M. Nall**, Fla.—Where most needed • **North Coast Cat Fanciers**, Ohio—Feline infectious peritonitis studies • **Mr. William R. Payden**, Calif.—Where most needed • **Ann Jones Ramsey**, Conn.—In memory of Oedipuss Jones and Sophie • **Richard N. Reciniello**, N.Y.—In memory of Maxine, Anisette, and Silver • **James R. Richards, Jr.**, N.Y.—In honor of the staff of the Cornell

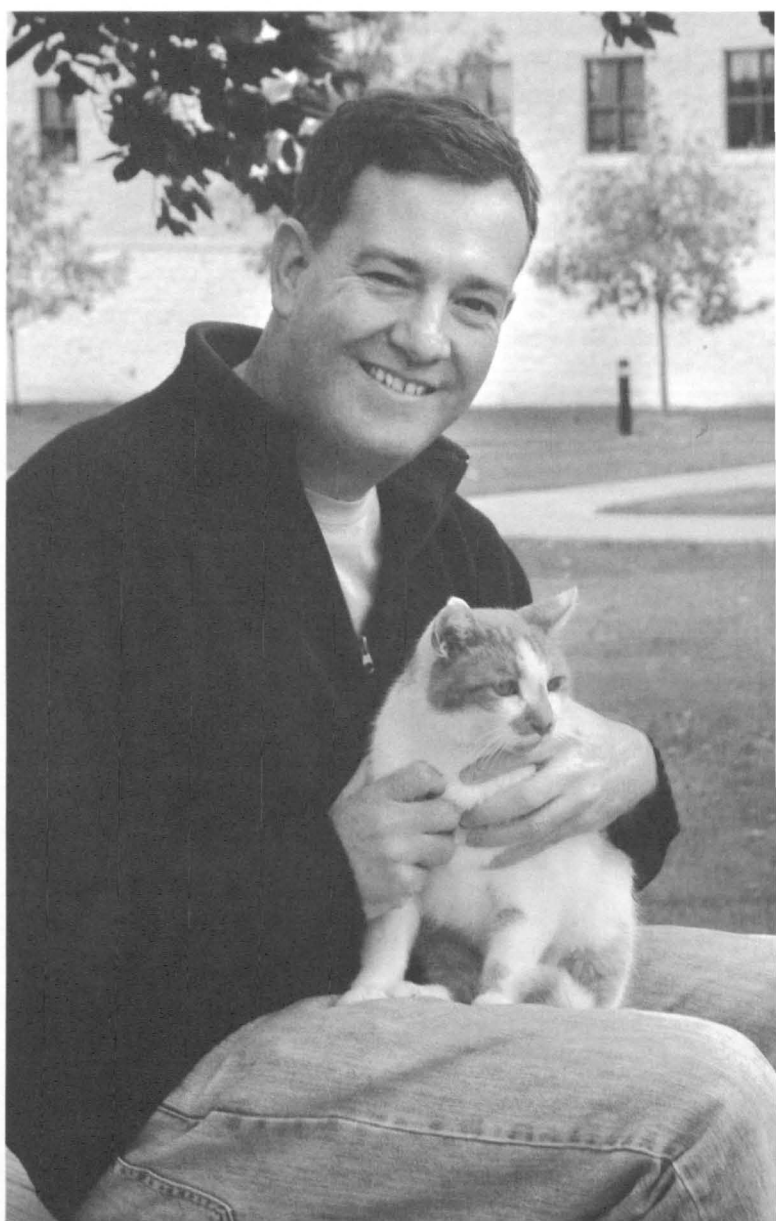
Interactions between feline calicivirus and its receptor, feline junctional adhesion molecule-A

Investigator: **John S. Parker, DVM, PhD**, virologist at Baker Institute for Animal Health

[Note: This is a continuation of one of the 2006–2007 Feline Health Studies. In 2007, two scientific publications from this research were published, and two scientific presentations were given at national meetings.]

Feline caliciviruses (FCVs) are highly prevalent, important pathogens of cats. Most FCV isolates primarily infect epithelial cells of the mouth, nose, and eye, causing signs of upper-respiratory-tract disease; more virulent isolates may cause pneumonia. However, in the last seven years there have been multiple reports of a highly virulent systemic disease caused by FCV (VS-FCV). These infections are highly contagious and cause high morbidity and mortality—findings include non-responsive fever, pancreatitis, disseminated intravascular

coagulation, hepatic necrosis, limb and facial edema, and skin and footpad ulcerations. Unlike most FCV isolates, VS-FCV isolates infect a broad range of cells throughout the body. The molecular bases for these differences in FCV tropism and virulence are unknown. Differences in viral tropism often can be explained by differences in virus usage of cell-surface receptors. The cell-surface receptors thus far identified for FCV are feline junctional adhesion molecule-A (fJAM-A) and α -2,6 sialic acid. It is not known how FCV interacts with these receptors or what role virus-receptor interactions play in tropism and virulence. Knowledge of the viral determinants of receptor binding is critical to understand how variations in the viral coat protein can lead to changes in tropism and virulence.



Dr. John S. Parker

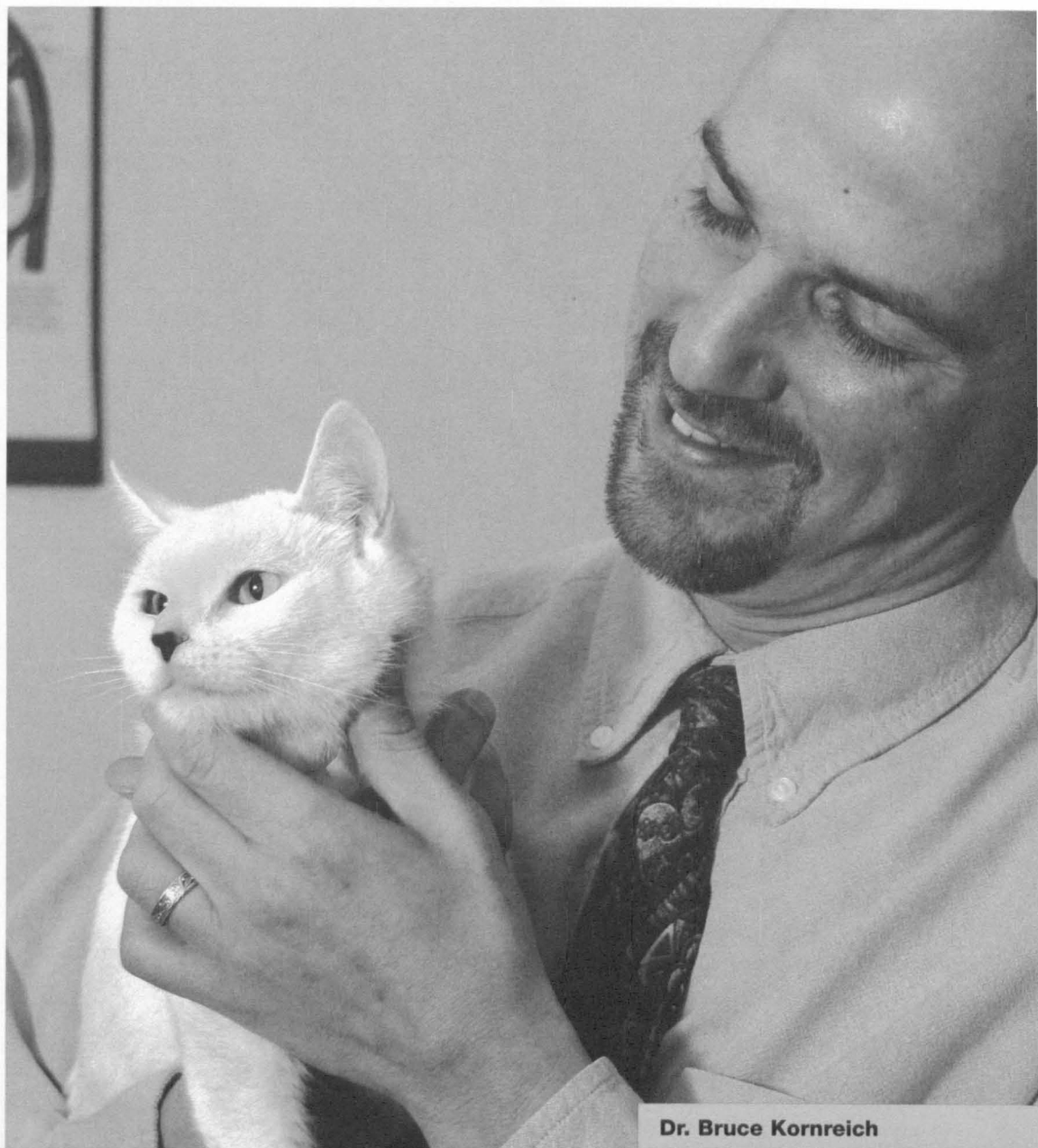
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Istaroxime in cats: safety, pharmacokinetics, and hemodynamic effects

Investigator: **Bruce Kornreich, DVM, PhD**, senior research associate, Department of Clinical Sciences

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most commonly diagnosed cardiac disease in cats and is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in feline veterinary patients. Istaroxime is a novel cardiac therapeutic agent, and the potential for istaroxime as a therapeutic agent to treat feline HCM has not been investigated.

This study will utilize echocardiographic, electrocardiographic, clinicopathologic, and high-performance liquid chromatographic techniques to assess the use of istaroxime in cats for the treatment of HCM. Evaluations will include safety, physiologic effects, and pharmacokinetic profile.



Dr. Bruce Kornreich

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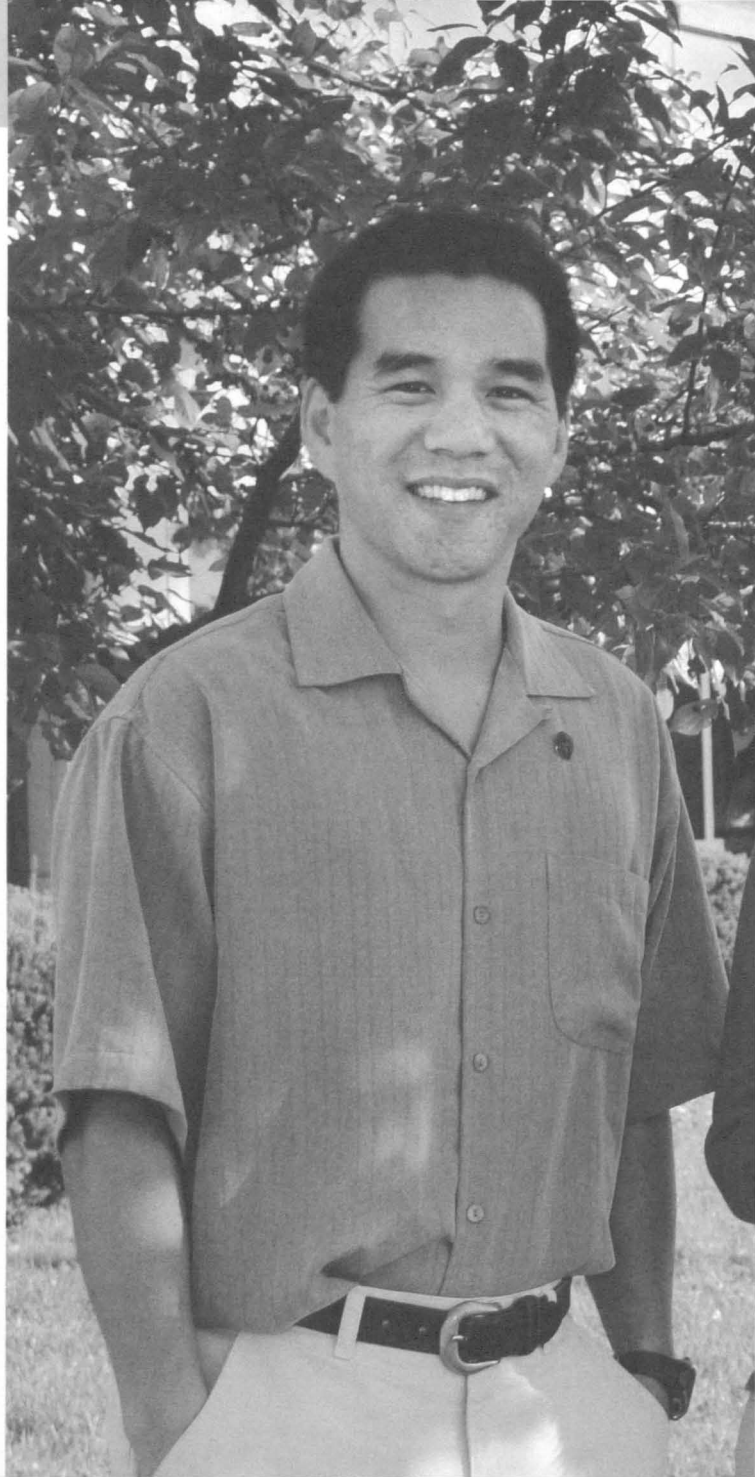
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Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Feline Consultation and Diagnostic Service

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 for 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.

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Drs. Paul Maza, Christine Bellezza, and Carolyn McDaniel

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19th Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium

The 19th Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium was held at the College of Veterinary Medicine on July 27–29, 2007, with more than 100 veterinarians attending from 24 states and three foreign countries. It was a jam-packed two-and-a-half days of continuing education on a variety of topics feline.



This annual symposium is sponsored by the Cornell Feline Health Center and the Office of Continuing Education at the College of Veterinary Medicine. This year the symposium was dedicated to the late Dr. James R. Richards. A special tribute for Dr. Richards

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 demonstrated 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.

Ryane Englar, Class of 2008

"If ever I lose sight of the path ahead, a gentle purr, perked ears, and four soft, furry paws draw me back every time. Cats make our lives whole. To befriend a dog is something special. But to have a cat befriend you is divine."

Hometown: Reisterstown, Maryland

Current companion animals: Nina and Bailey, two Tonkinese cats who light up our lives with endless conversation. They tell us what we are doing right—then, in typical cat fashion, tell us what we could be doing better.

First interest in being a veterinarian: Englar 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 her grow, along with the mentorship of David Mannes, DVM, Tiger's veterinarian, she says, that fueled her passion for veterinary medicine.

Her interest in feline medicine: Englar has been employed since age 13 at a local veterinary clinic. There, 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, and in my feline patients I found my true love. I cannot imagine straying from either. The power of the human–companion animal bond draws me in every time."

Favorite Cornell class or academic experience: Her work as an active member and co-president of Cornell University's Pet Loss Support Hotline, under the supervision of the late Dr. James Richards. Under his wing, she says, she learned that "there is no timeline for grief, that the human spirit is powerful, and the human heart giving."

Career plans: Small-animal practice, with special interests in cardiology and internal medicine.

Colo.—Feline health studies • **Gisela R. Gall**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Dorothy Gardner**, Mass.—Happy Birthday to Earl Iffland, Jr. • **Mr. Thomas E. Gardner**, Pa.—In memory of Iris, Tigger, and Tabata • **Craig M. Garretson**, Ariz.—In memory of Mildred Barbara Garretson • **James P. Gates**, Conn.—In memory of Ginger • **Pauline Gherson**, Mass.—In memory of Si-Am, Mai-Si-Wickie, Fluffy, and Dr. Mew • **Amy and Scott Gilbert**, Ill.—Where most needed • **Rebecca Glen**, N.Y.—In memory of Percy • **Gary W. Goldberg**, Md.—In memory of Rusty • **Roberta Goodman**, Tenn.—Feline health studies • **Mrs. Dolores D. Goodrich**, Fla.—In memory of John J. Goodrich • **Mr. Erik Gordon**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Lauren E. Gordon**, Ill.—Where most needed • **Jim and Kathy Gouldie**, Utah—In memory of Mimi, Jazz, and Samantha • **Marianne C. Gourary**, N.Y.—In memory of Tommy • **Rosaline Grashaw**, Calif.—In memory of Liza Jane, Dr. Mew, and Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. • **Elizabeth Graves**, Va.—Where most needed • **Dr. Brenda Griffin**, N.Y.—In memory of Dr. Mew • **Ekaterina A. Grimes**, Va.—In memory of Sophie • **Mr. and Mrs. Lester Guttman**, Ill.—Where most needed • **J. Lynn and Shirley Hartford**, Calif.—In memory of Mr. Dickens • **Theresa A. Hastings**, N.Y.—In memory of Captain Kitt, Canteloupe, and Pech Schwartz • **Terry-Anne Havel**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Linda E. Henderson**, Ill.—In memory of John Jamdyce • **Leslie Hendrix and Joseph Smith**, N.Y.—In memory of Shumai Fine/Bendet • **Jane Henle**, Pa.—Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund • **Mary Henle**, Pa.—Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund • **Ariette Hernes**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Carol S. Heubeck**, Conn.—In memory of Shadow, Tigger, and Rosie • **Robert W. Hewitt**, N.J.—In memory of Louise F. Hewitt • **Mr. Michael Hinkelman**, Pa.—In memory of Smokey • **James Hirsch**, N.Y.—In memory of Chester • **Roger Hockenberry and David Highnote**, Va.—In memory of Conan Cain • **Janet M. Hoffman**, Tex.—In memory of Cecil • **Jerlene and James Holman**, Calif.—In memory of Thursday • **Carol Marshall Horace**, Calif.—In memory of Fennster • **Mrs. Gloria Horner**, Md.—In memory of Sweetie • **Mary E. Horsman**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Marcia Hough**, N.Y.—In memory of Ashley • **Colleen T. Hudgens**, Calif.—Feline health studies • **Susan Hughes**, Va.—Feline health studies • **Luke Huitt**, Tex.—In memory of Itty Bitty • **Gregory and Marilyn Hull**, Calif.—In memory of Lightning and Thunder; in honor of Janet Coppini • **Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson Hulme**, II, N.J.—Where most needed • **Pasquale and Amy Iannuzzi**, Conn.—In honor of Dr. Amy Hinc and Lee Basse • **Ms. De Ann W. Isackson**, Wash.—Where most needed • **Kathleen Jacklin**, N.Y.—In honor of Holly • **Mr. and Mrs. George L.**



Johnson, Ind.—In memory of Margaret J. Anderson, and her cats, Ming, Maus 1, and Tigger • **Leanne and Mike Johnson**, Canada—In memory of Tanuki Hoyer • **Jennifer Jones**, N.Y.—In honor of Dr. Mary Buelow; in memory of Oedipus • **Meg Julian and Anne Brodsky**, N.J.—In memory of Frankie Fonte • **Norma G. Kaplan**, Calif.—Where most needed • **David A. Katz and Cecilia Absher**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Colleen Kelly**, N.Y.—In memory of Max • **Kentuckiana Cat Club**, Ky.—Where most needed • **Gerald and Jane King**, Ariz.—In honor of Jim and Joan Holloway • **Dr. Ronald Murray Kipnis**, Ill.—Where most needed • **Thomas K. Klein**, N.J.—In memory of Ebony, Boscoe, and Anthrocity • **Lisa Kole**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Saul Korduner**, Calif.—In memory of Keaton • **Dr. David Krick**, N.J.—Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Annual Fund • **Scott Kronland and Eileen Goldsmith**, Calif.—In memory of Frady • **Alison Kruk**, Va.—In memory of Elton • **Dr. Anne C. Kuhn**, Mich.—In memory of Cleo • **Emina Minka Kulenovic**, Calif.—In memory of LouLou Sundberg • **Gail and Robert Kulikowsky**, Tex.—Where most needed • **Robert and Evelyn Kurhajetz**, Va.—In memory of Tippy, Gabby, and Gable • **Susan Joy Lacey**, Fla.—Where most needed • **Ms. Margery E. Laird**, N.Y.—In memory of Charley • **Patricia Lake**, Mich.—Where most needed • **Wendy Lambrecht**, Minn.—In memory of Spitzzy • **June R. Lanciani**, Mass.—In memory of Mimi • **Cindy Larson**, R.I.—In memory of Bobby • **Mr. Jack Lauren**, N.Y.—In memory of Mr. Wookie • **Nicole Ledoux and Larry Levy**, N.J.—William Ledoux Memorial Fund in memory of Dr. Mew and Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. • **David Lenaburg and Cheryl Bard**, Md.—In memory of Tutty, Tildy, and Rocky • **Dr. Jane E. Liller**, Ga.—Where most needed • **Dr. Aunna C. Lippert**, Mich.—In memory of Smoosh Wood and Lu Moon • **Roberta E. Litzinger**, Nev.—In memory of Butterscotch • **Ms. Michelle M. Lowe**, Ill.—In memory of Punc • **Gulen and John Lukas**, N.Y.—In memory of Lovie, Bonnie, and Jello • **Kathryn Madden**, N.Y.—In memory of Sophia Magdalena • **JoAnne Maniago**, N.Y.—In honor of Dr. Susan Szcotzka • **Susan Marcus and Roger Haskin**, Va.—Where most needed • **Joan and Eugene Marshall**, N.Y.—In memory of Peaches and Pepper • **Shirley R. Martin**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Barbara A. Maxwell**, Md.—In memory of Seamus • **Rose and Vincent Maxwell**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Lillian Mazzaroli**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Sara Mazzone**, Calif.—In memory of H. Jane Clare from her bowling team • **Megan McCormick and David Eastwood**, N.Y.—In honor of the Louis's cats • **Ms. Colleen McGrady**, N.Y.—In memory of Dr. Jack Friedland • **Theresa McGregor and Eileen Nossal**, Pa.—In memory of Taffy McGregor



was held on Saturday evening. Several individuals shared comments about what Dr. Richards meant to them personally and what he contributed to the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

Guest lecturers and feline topics presented during this year's symposium included:

- Dr. Stephen DiBartola, Ohio State University—kidney diseases
- Dr. Ray Dillon, Auburn University—heartworm-associated respiratory disease (HARD)
- Dr. Richard Malik, University of Sydney, Australia—respiratory diseases, liver diseases, uncommon infectious diseases, diagnosis and case management of unusual cases
- Dr. Mark Rishniw, Cornell University—newer aspects of heart disease
- Dr. Kenneth Simpson, Cornell University—inflammatory bowel disease

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 supports the scholarship recipients by reimbursing the costs of their textbooks and supplies.

Samantha Collins, Class of 2009

"After earning my master's in geology and working in environmental consulting for several years, my love of animals and need to have them be a full-time part of my life became all-encompassing, and I made the big jump back to veterinary medicine."

Hometown: Buffalo, New York

Current companion animals: Many! Jag, a 21-year-old, black domestic short-hair; her first cat, Galena, now 11; Button, a 4-year-old pastel tortoiseshell, one of Collins's first foster kittens; and Peggy, an 8-year-old tabby.

Cornell veterinarian who influenced studies: Dr. Kathy Makolinski from the Erie County SPCA in Buffalo. "Her tireless, unrelenting effort to help the homeless, feral, and underprivileged cats of Western New York is inspiring," she says. "She took me under her wing when I first started my volunteer work at the SPCA and opened my eyes to the needs of our feline friends."

Favorite Cornell class or academic experience: "Junior Surgery, where we get to do our first spay—for a shelter kitty," she explains. "Not only was it so exciting to get to perform surgery, but for the first time we had a direct, significant impact on the life of a kitty rather than just book learning and taking exams. We play a role in getting her off the streets, ending her years of unnecessary pregnancies, and helping to find her a loving home."

Career plans: An internship and a residency in small-animal surgery, with special emphasis in feline surgery. And to contribute her skills at local shelters and humane organizations involved with providing health and sterilization services to underprivileged and feral kitties.

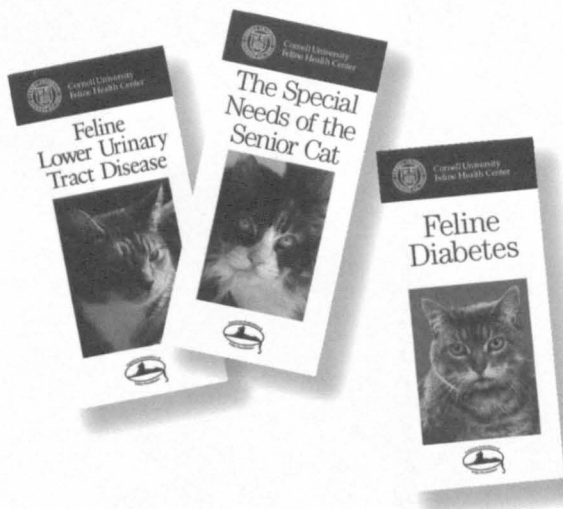
• **Nancy McMullen**, Minn.—Feline health studies • **Linda Merk**, N.Y.—In memory of Holly, Mandy, and Puddin' • **Dr. Linda M. Messinger**, Colo.—In memory of Stan • **Richard and Cheryl Metrick**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Melanie Michailidis**, Calif.—In memory of Bubbles • **Mr. and Mrs. William Miller**, R.I.—In memory of all the furry felines who have given us so much joy and pleasure • **Michael A. Mills**, N.J.—In memory of Chip • **Mr. and Mrs. Conrad and Phyllis Milster**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Garth and Mary-Ann Miner**, Utah—In honor of Dr. Christine Bellezza • **Gloria J. Modrell**, Calif.—In memory of Toonces • **M. Josette Mowlem**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Dr. David L. Moyer**, Pa.—Feline health studies • **Annette A. Muir and Gerald T. Barth**, N.Y.—In memory of Beau and Stranger • **Norm Mullen**, N.Y.—In memory of Gypsy • **Ms. Therese S. Murphy**, Fla.—Where most needed • **Thomas and Marcia Murphy**, Pa.—In memory of Patch • **Jenny Ng and Joshua Atkins**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Ms. Jean G. Nicholas**, Mich.—In memory of Winston • **Mrs. Emily A. Nielsen**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Carroll and Thomas Niles**, N.Y.—In memory of Bean and Kitty • **Dr. Edward J. Nowak**, Vt.—In memory of Sylvia • **Roberta Oliphant**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Edward Ong**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Brigitta M. Ortner**, N.Y.—In memory of Freddy, Ginger, Bimbo, and Chippy • **Diane and Paul O'Shaughnessy**, Mass.—In memory of Clara • **Carol Ann Pacco-Long**, N.Y.—In memory of Motley Colson-Merrill • **Anne Pace**, Md.—In memory of Wile • **Rebecca Palmer**, N.Y.—In memory of Zumi Webber • **Barbara Papish**, Mass.—In memory of Prescott • **Barry and Dolores Parker**, N.C.—In memory of JoJo and Little Bib • **Drs. John Parker and Tracy Stokol**, N.Y.—In honor of Duke • **Mr. Malcolm O. Partin**, N.C.—Where most needed • **Marilynn Patzwald and Bill Kostlevy**, Kans.—In honor of feral cats #1 and #2 • **Peggy S. Payne**, Mo.—Where most needed • **Brian and Irene Penney**, N.Y.—In memory of Sydney and Copper • **Jim and Linda Pivarnik**, Mich.—In memory of Bogle • **Lisa Popoli**, N.J.—In memory of Friskie, Dragon, and Rusty • **Carole and Peter Popow**, Ohio—In memory of Tuxedo • **Mr. and Mrs. William R. Postman, Jr.**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Daniell Prill**, N.Y.—In memory of Willard, Fuji, and Mary • **Dr. William J. Prokop**, Ind.—Where most needed • **Mr. Vaughn Prunier**, N.Y.—In memory of Jerri, Tom, and Tammi • **Helen and John Putre**, Va.—In memory of Heidi and London, two "good ol' dogs" • **Jan Ralbovsky**, N.Y.—In memory of Moses, Mover, and Rosie • **Khela R. Ransier**, Maine—Where most needed • **Yvette Rauff and Andre Koslowski**, Pa.—In memory of Topper Konrath/Lee • **Dorothy Reciniello**, N.Y.—In memory of Silver • **Lynn Regnery**,



N.C.—Where most needed • **Sonia Reid**, Ariz.—In memory of Cupid • **James and Barbara Roberts and family**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Susan M. Roberts**, Minn.—Feline health studies • **Carol Rogers**, Fla.—In memory of Spike Christmas • **Margaret C. Roll**, N.J.—Where most needed • **Lois Rosenberg**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rumbel**, Va.—Where most needed • **Louise B. Russell**, N.J.—In memory of Hannah, Martha I, Martha II, Pretzel, Princess, and Puddy • **Ann P. Rutherford**, Conn.—Where most needed • **Dr. Eleanor Saboski**, Maine—In memory of Me, Too • **Carole A. Sack**, N.Y.—In memory of Pixie • **Mary T. Saragnese**, N.Y.—In memory of Pepper • **Malcolm R. Schade**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Deborah J. Schneider**, Va.—In memory of Sophie • **Mr. and Mrs. John F. Serio**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Anne M. Sevier-Buckingham**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Mr. Larry Shackman**, Nebr.—Feline health studies • **Amy Sheaffer**, Conn.—In memory of Grey Kitty • **Lynda Sheldon**, N.Y.—In memory of MacTavish • **Dr. John B. Shumaker**, Md.—Where most needed • **Dr. Carolyn R. Sikes**, N.J.—In memory of Christmas • **Amy Simpson**, N.C.—In honor of Ms. Betty Simpson and Pookie • **John W. Skooglund**, Pa.—Where most needed • **Barbara Smith**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Ethan Timothy Smith**, Va.—Feline health studies • **Laurence Snelling**, La.—Where most needed • **Patti Sopp and Scott Hunter**, N.Y.—In memory of Bartles and Jaymes • **Frank and Ruth Soulier**, Va.—In memory of Andy Kaufman • **Mr. Cyrus W. Spurlino**, Fla.—Where most needed • **C. R. Starnes, III**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Barbara Steinberg**, Fla.—In memory of Jinx • **Dr. Gayle Sternefeld**, Md.—In memory of Mac, Chap, and Tip • **Nancy H. Stetson**, Va.—In memory of Sammy • **Catherine Stiner**, N.Y.—In memory of Rocket, Shelby, Hannibal, Nirvana, Mystique, Cosmo, Hobbes, and Pixie Weygandt • **Shepard B. Stone**, Conn.—Where most needed • **James and Kathy Stover**, Pa.—In honor of Joyce Pyle • **Karen L. Strong**, N.Y.—In honor of Sharon L. Merrill • **Ms. Vaunita R. Struble**, Pa.—In memory of Clara • **Allison Suggs**, Fla.—In memory of Mary H. Thompson • **Ms. Joan Sulewski**, N.Y.—In memory of Rachel Hill • **Shanna Sullivan and family**, Conn.—Where most needed • **Summer Street Cat Clinic**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Charles Sweeney**, Calif.—Where most needed • **Dr. Larissa Taylor**, Maine—In honor of Kitkat • **Herman and Tessie Teller**, Fla.—Where most needed • **June Tesauro**, N.Y.—Feline health studies • **Eileen H. Thompson**, France—In memory of Basile • **Lois Thompson**, N.C.—In honor of Emily • **Toms River Veterinary Hospital**, N.J.—In honor of Mrs. Sharon Schaedel and Feline Friends • **Sayuri Veda**, Japan—Where most needed

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 Sarcomas, Feline Infectious Peritonitis, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, Feline Leukemia Virus, Feline Diabetes, Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, Gastrointestinal Parasites of Cats, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Toxoplasmosis and Hyperthyroidism in Cats, and What Can I Catch from my Cat? To order brochures, practitioners should call (607) 253-3443.



Amelia Knieper, Class of 2009

"Population control, especially of feral cats, has been a very important subject for me. My commitment was strengthened when I rescued my two cats as tiny feral kittens."

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Current companion animals: Figaro, a stylish grey domestic shorthair who loves tummy scratches and causing trouble, and Dot, a charming black domestic shorthair who loves wet food, chirping at birds, and cuddle time.

First interest in being a veterinarian: "It's just always been my dream," she says. "Later in life, I was attracted to the scientific aspect, along with the prospect of nurturing the human-animal bond."

Specific interest in feline medicine: When she was growing up, her family took care of various pets over the years, but she says that she always has felt a special connection with cats.

Favorite Cornell class or academic experience: In the beginning of her first year, the feline club organized a trip to a feral cat clinic in a nearby town where Knieper neutered two kittens. "Not only was it exciting to have a positive effect in the community and neuter what I hope to be the first of thousands," she says, "but I also was able to see the education and skills that just a couple of months of veterinary school had given me."

Career plans: After graduation she hopes to join an exclusively feline practice so that she can focus her attention on her favorite clients. She intends to support local low-cost spay-and-neuter clinics as well as feral cat trap/neuter/release programs. "Eventually, I hope to run my own cat-only clinic and become a certified feline specialist," she says, "so that I can provide cats with the very best medical attention."

• **Albert E. Vernon, IV**, Ohio—In memory of Evita • **Sally Verrinder**, Wash.—In memory of Dr. Mew, Katie McGee, and Siggy Campbell/Grinstead • **Patricia Viets**, Md.—In memory of Bernie and the Gang • **Daniel R. Volkmuth**, Va.—Where most needed • **Ms. Patricia Vreatt**, N.Y.—In memory of Boris • **Dr. Brock H. Wagner**, Ohio—Where most needed • **David Wagner**, Pa.—Feline health studies • **Roberta Wailes**, N.J.—In memory of Maxine Harris • **Lynda L. Walker**, Oreg.—Where most needed • **William and Susie Ward**, Utah—Where most needed • **Dr. Roger I. Warren**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Mrs. AnnaBell Washburn**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Joyce and Harold Way**, Kans.—In memory of Jennifer • **Elaine Wechsler**, Mich.—In memory of Maggie • **Carol Weiser and Dennis Oberholtzer**, Pa.—Where most needed • **Gary Weissblatt**, N.Y.—In memory of Bebeyaya • **Jerene Weitman**, N.Y.—In memory of Spencer • **Gloria Welk**, Calif.—Where most needed • **Arthur R. Westerfeld**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Ralph L. Wilgarde**, Calif.—Where most needed • **Dr. and Mrs. John Williams**, Mo.—In memory of Rajah Hanson • **Peter Wilson**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Mr. G. Michael Woloch**, Canada—In memory of Galla and Gratian • **Gary Wood**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Daria L. Woodruff**, Pa.—In memory of Bright Eyes • **J.D. or Joyce Woods**, Mich.—Where most needed • **Dana L. Worden**, Calif.—In memory of Dr. Francis H. Goldsmith, with appreciation for the care and love he gave to numerous pets • **Amy and Mike Wortham**, Tex.—In memory of Pantherboy • **Mrs. George Wright**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Yvonne and Nick Zaboukos**, Calif.—Where most needed • **Jean Anne Zaremba**, N.Y.—In memory of Harriet • **Patricia Zebro**, N.J.—In memory of Oreo • **Mrs. Robin J. Zee**, Md.—In memory of Robin Zee and Tip • **Ms. Shirley M. Zeiner**, Conn.—In memory of Dudley • **Al Zimmerman**, N.Y.—Where most needed • **Gail A. Zoerner**, N.J.—In memory of LuLu • **Tom and Suzanne Zucal**, Kans.—In memory of Sapphire



Memorial Program Participants July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007

We are pleased to express our thanks to the veterinarians and animal hospitals represented here for their participation and support of the Cornell Feline Health Center's Memorial Program for Cats. To learn more about becoming actively involved in this valuable program and enhance client-veterinary relations, please call (607) 253-3414.

Honoring those who gave \$500 or more A Cat Clinic—Germantown, Md. • Adirondack Animal Hospital—Glens Falls, N.Y. • All Cats Hospital, P.A.—Largo, Fla. • Animal Hospital of Pittsford, P.C.—Rochester, N.Y. • Animal Kind Veterinary Hospital—Brooklyn, N.Y. • Aspetuck Animal Hospital—Marblehead, Conn. • Bolton Veterinary Hospital—Bolton, Conn. • Burlington Veterinary Center—Burlington, Conn. • Capital Cat Clinic—Arlington, Va. • Dr. Kathy Carlson—Tyler, Tex. • Cat Care, P.C.—Rochester Hills, Mich. • Cat Care Clinic—Orange, Calif. • Cat Care Clinic, Ltd.—Madison, Wisc. • Cat Care Clinic of Ormond Beach, Inc.—Ormond Beach, Fla. • Cat Care Hospital, P.C.—Greensboro, N.C. • Cat Clinic of Greensboro, P.A.—Greensboro, N.C. • Cat Doctor—Johnson City, N.Y. • Cat Doctor, Inc.—Atlanta, Ga. • Cat Doctor, Inc.—Estero, Fla. • Cat Doctor, S.C.—Milwaukee, Wisc. • Cat Hospital at Towson—Baltimore, Md. • Cat Hospital of Chicago—Chicago, Ill. • Cat Hospital of Petaluma—Petaluma, Calif. • Cat Hospital of Sarasota—Sarasota, Fla. • Cat Practice Limited—Oak Park, Ill. • Cats Exclusive Veterinary Center, P.S.—Shoreline, Wash. • Cats Limited Veterinary Hospital, P.C.—West Hartford, Conn. • Cats Only Veterinary Clinic—Columbus, Ohio • Cats Only Veterinary Hospital, Inc.—Mount Pleasant, S.C. • Centreville Animal Hospital, Inc.—Centreville, Va. • Chico Hospital For Cats—Chico, Calif. • Chippens Hill Veterinary Hospital—Bristol, Conn. • Dr. John S. Clauss—Orchard Park, N.Y. • Coast Cat Clinic, Ltd.—Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada • Dr. Steven J. Cohen—Fairfax, Va. • Cosmic Cat Veterinary Clinic—Branford, Conn. • Dr. John C. DeVerna, Jr., P.C.—Stony Brook, N.Y. • Dongan Hills Veterinary Practice—Staten Island, N.Y. • Doylestown Animal

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.



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 smokey-gray domestic long-hair; Cherub, an eight-year-old tortoise-shell cat; and Miracle, a four-year-old beagle/lab mix.

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 Koslow, for whom she worked at the Commack Animal Hospital on Long Island while she was in high school. “Dr. Koslow has been a lifelong mentor for me and a role model for the type of veterinarian I hope to become.”

Favorite Cornell class or academic experience: The veterinary oncology course offered in the third year of veterinary school, which introduced her to a field of veterinary medicine that she had little previous exposure to. “The course, as well as the unfortunate diagnosis of cancer in one of my own cats, instilled in me a newfound interest and excitement in the field of oncology.”

Career plans: To obtain a small-animal internship first, then to pursue private practice or a residency in oncology.

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Videos on the Web Site

To help people provide basic home care for their cats, the Feline Health Center—in collaboration with the college's Partners in Animal Health program—has developed a series of live-action videos that offer step-by-step instructions. The online 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. To order DVD versions of the videos, please call Pam Sackett at (607) 253-3443.

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



www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu

Amanda Perkins, Class of 2009

"I'm interested in the dual nature of cats. While they are loving companions, they have, at heart, a resistant feral nature. I like the challenge of demystifying and embracing this feralness for the sake of compassionate medicine."

Hometown: Columbia, Mississippi

Current companion animals: Almost five years ago, she found a litter of kittens underneath a flower shop. She adopted Biddu, a charming Siamese, and her brother, Triska, solid black and timid.

First interest in being a veterinarian: Perkins says that she was the typical little girl who always knew that she should take care of the friends constantly at her feet. "Going deeper, though," she explains, "I was exposed to the harsher side of the human-animal relationship, growing up in a society where the life of an animal often has little value. This eventually made me aware of the ethical and social complexities involved in veterinary medicine, and that, ultimately, is what drew me."

Favorite Cornell class or academic experience: Professor Dwight Bowman taught her that parasitology is not only fascinating in its own right but is at the center of most controversies in the world. "I was enthralled by every lecture," she says.

Career plans: To go straight into private practice in a feline-exclusive clinic back home. "It's a budding idea in the South, and I want to be part of its progress and help reclaim the value of the cat—or whatever creatures cross my path," she explains.

• Bayshore Animal Hospital—Port Orange, Fla. • Cat Clinic of Plymouth—Plymouth, Mass. • Cat Hospital of Portland—Portland, Oreg. • Center for Feline Medicine & Surgery, Inc.—Stone Mountain, Ga. • Chestnut Hill Cat Clinic—Philadelphia, Pa. • Clarkson Veterinary Hospital—Brockport, N.Y. • Delmar Veterinary Associates, P.C.—Delmar, N.Y. • Eagle Rock Veterinary Hospital—West Orange, N.J. • Eagle Veterinary Clinic, P.C.—Chester Springs, Pa. • Eastview Veterinary Clinic—Penn Yan, N.Y. • Erie Animal Hospital, P.C.—Erie, Co. • Feline Medical Center, L.L.C.—Red Bank, N.J. • For Cats Only, Inc.—West Palm Beach, Fla. • Dr. Jessica Rankin Gibson—Los Angeles, Calif. • Home Veterinary Services—Ithaca, N.Y. • Dr. Mary Lee Keating—New York, N.Y. • Marsh Hospital for Animals—Verona, N.J. • Norwin Veterinary Hospital—North Huntingdon, Pa. • Oakton-Vienna Veterinary Hospital—Vienna, Va. • Park Ridge Animal Hospital—Park Ridge, N.J. • Quarry Ridge Animal Hospital—Ridgefield, Conn. • Rancho Bernardo Veterinary Clinic, Inc.—San Diego, Calif. • Ridge Animal Hospital—Middleport, N.Y. • Dr. Rebecca Erin Seacord—Salisbury, Md. • Somers Animal Hospital—Somers, N.Y. • Veterinary Associates of North Branford—North Branford, Conn. • Dr. Ivan B. Weinstein—Oro Valley, Ariz. • Westside Animal Clinic—Worcester, Mass. • Wright's Corners Animal Care Center—Lockport, N.Y. • Honoring those who gave \$100–199 Animal Care Center of Sonoma County—Rohnert Park, Calif. • Animal General—Edgewater, N.J. • Animal Hospital of Kent—Carmel, N.Y. • Animal Medical Clinic of Dulaney Valley—Timonium, Md. • Animal Medicine and Surgery of Little Neck—Little Neck, N.Y. • Ardda Animal Hospital—Rochester, N.Y. • Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital, Inc.—Berkeley, Calif. • Briar Patch Veterinary Hospital—Ithaca, N.Y. • Brockton Animal Hospital—Brockton, Mass. • Dr. David J. Carlson—Port St. Lucie, Fla. • Carousel Cat Clinic—Farmington Hills, Mich. • Clays Mill Veterinary Clinic—Lexington, Ky. • College Point Animal Hospital, P.C.—College Point, N.Y. • Dr. Patricia J. Collins—Valley Cottage, N.Y. • Companion Animal Hospital of Virginia—Springfield, Va. • Country Cat Clinic—Plymouth, Mich. • Double Churches Animal Clinic—Columbus, Ga. • East Hilliard Veterinary Services—Hilliard, Ohio • East Valley Animal Clinic, P.A.—Apple Valley, Minn. • Estates Animal Hospital—Jamaica Estates, N.Y. • Farmington Veterinary Clinic—Farmington, Maine • Flower Valley Veterinary Clinic, Inc.—Rockville, Md. • Germantown Veterinary Clinic, L.L.C.—Germantown, Md. • Hartsdale Veterinary Hospital, P.L.L.C.—Hartsdale, N.Y. • Dr. Emi Hayashi—Los Angeles,



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In Tribute to Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. (1948–2007)

In April 2007, James R. Richards, Jr. died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. At the time of his death, Dr. Richards was the director of the Cornell Feline Health Center, a position he had held for 10 years.

A past president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, Dr. Richards lectured to cat owners' clubs around the country and was often consulted by the news media to translate the latest details of feline medicine for the cat-owning public. He especially was known for efforts to study vaccine-related sarcomas in cats and to educate veterinarians and cat owners about their danger, causes, and possible remedies.

Dr. Richards was the editor-in-chief of *CatWatch*, a monthly newsletter published by the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, for which he wrote the column, "Ask Dr. Richards." He also was the author of the *ASPCA Complete Guide to Cats* (Chronicle Books, 1999); an editor of *The Well-Behaved Cat: How to Change Your Cat's Bad Habits* (Englander Communications, 2001); and the consulting editor for the second edition of *The Cornell Book of Cats* (Villard, 1997), among other publications.

Born on July 19, 1948, in Richmond, Indiana, James Robert Richards grew up on a farm in Preble County, Ohio. He often said that cats were his first friends. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Berea College in 1970, followed by a veterinary degree from Ohio State University in 1979. After practicing in small-animal clinics in Ohio, Dr. Richards joined the faculty at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991. He became the director of the Feline Health Center in 1997. During his tenure, some of the center's projects included research into feline vaccine-related sarcomas, feline cardiac disease and coronary thrombosis, work on improving methods of diagnosing hyperthyroidism in cats, and efforts to

conserve endangered members of the cat family around the world.

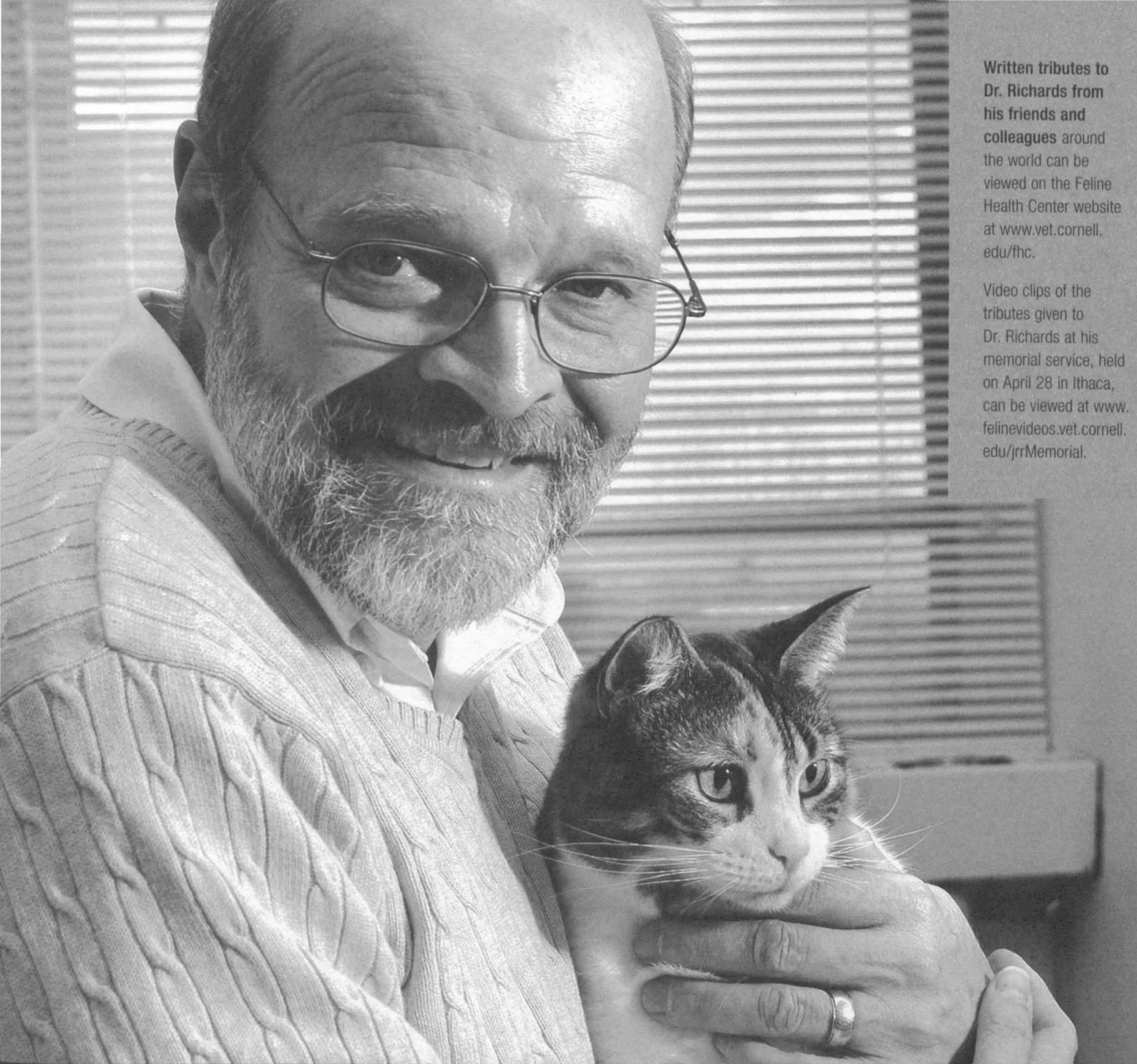
Jim's passing has been a traumatic experience for all that knew him and witnessed his great dedication to the health and welfare of all his kitties. Even as we try to recover from our great loss, we know that we must move on. Dr. Richards would want the center to continue its work to improve the health and welfare of the kitties he so loved.

In the past several months there have been numerous tributes to Dr. Richards. He was honored at the 19th Annual Feline Symposium at Cornell in July. The annual Cornell Feline Health Center award at the Cat Writers Association has been renamed to the Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health Center Veterinary Issues Special Award. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) presented a tribute to him in November at its annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Dr. Richards has been elected posthumously to diplomate status in the prestigious American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine—the first time that the ACVIM has elected a posthumous diplomat. His diploma was presented to his family at the AAFP meeting in Austin.

Following the wishes of his family, a Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. Memorial Fund has been established at the Feline Health Center. Monies contributed to this fund will be used to continue the memory of Dr. Richards and to advance the health and welfare of his "kitties."

A dream of Dr. Richards was to obtain an endowment for the directorship of the Cornell Feline Health Center. It would be a fitting tribute, indeed, if we could obtain an endowment for the "James R. Richards Director of the Cornell Feline Health Center."

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Written tributes to Dr. Richards from his friends and colleagues around the world can be viewed on the Feline Health Center website at www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc.

Video clips of the tributes given to Dr. Richards at his memorial service, held on April 28 in Ithaca, can be viewed at www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu/jrrMemorial.

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Dr. James R. Richards, Jr. Memorial Fund *(gifts received as of November 1, 2007)*

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Opportunities for Support

Elizabeth's Wish List

Our feline ambassador, Elizabeth, has worked with our staff to develop this list of ideas for those friends who would like to designate a specific gift to support the work of the center. These suggestions represent some of our needs and wishes—we welcome all gifts, large or small, in the name of feline health.

Establish an endowment:

- Feline Health Center directorship: \$2,000,000
- Residency in feline medicine: \$1,500,000
- Feline Health Center webmaster: \$1,000,000

Direct a gift to help fund:

- Feline Health Center Scholarship fund for vet students: any amount
- Specialized clinical training of a feline medicine resident (cost is \$75,000 per year): any amount
- Salary for a Feline Health Center webmaster (cost is \$50,000 per year): any amount
- Grants for feline health studies (annual costs per study are \$1,000 to \$10,000, and more): any amount
- An iSTAT chemistry analyzer for the hospital, a handheld device that quickly gives vital patient information such as electrolyte and blood-gas levels: \$6,000
- A mobile PACS workstation for the hospital, to view and edit digital radiographs: \$5,700
- New software for Feline Health Center membership/donor services: \$5,000
- A blood-pressure monitor and pulse oximeter for the hospital's anesthesiology service: \$2,800
- An indirect ophthalmology scope for eye exams of patients in the hospital: \$1,843
- A non-invasive blood pressure monitor for use with hospital patients: \$1,645 (we need 10)
- New computer for the Feline Health Center administrative office: \$1,500 (we can use two)
- Feline Care Fund, for clinical treatment of indigent cats at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals: \$500 (supports the treatment of one cat)

For additional information about these wish-list items, please call Sheryl Thomas at 607-253-3001 or e-mail sat6@cornell.edu.

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 should 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-DR (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.

The Cornell Feline Health Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Gifts made to the center are tax-deductible to the full extent of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

www.vet.cornell.edu/FHC

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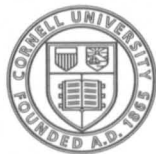
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