

When Wishes Come True

Improving care for patients can take something as dramatic as a high-performance CT scanner or as basic as a ceiling-mounted surgical light and monitor. Thanks to generous donors, the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine now has them all.

A \$250,000 bequest of the late Zelda Cushner, many of whose champion cocker spaniels received care at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals, helped

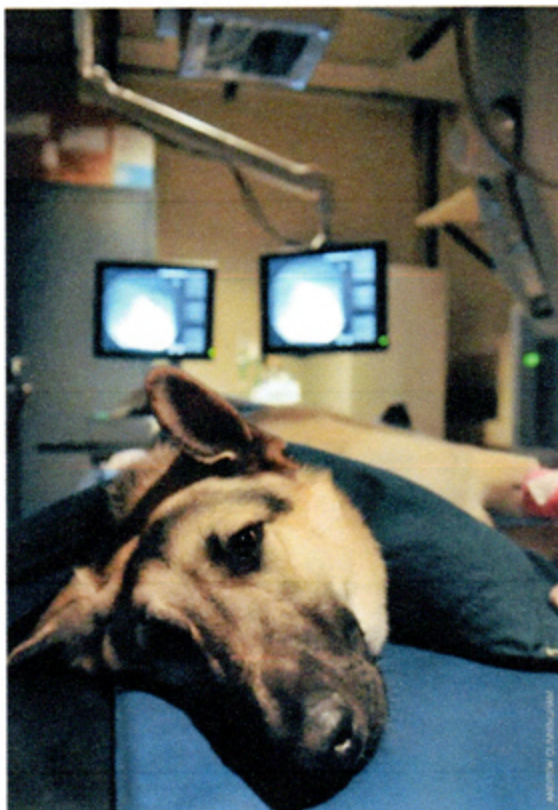
National Institutes of Health–approved project involving a three-dimensional reconstruction of the complex vascular anatomy, benefiting human and animal liver research.

An anonymous gift to Cummings by grateful donors has also made a difference in the fluoroscopy suite. The couple cite the compassionate care their beloved cat received from a “professional, thoughtful” cardiology team that included John Rush, D.V.M., and Suzanne Cunningham, VI04, VR08. They and others “slowed the progression of his heart disease, allowing him to lead a happy and fulfilled life for two more summers.”

And thanks to this scanner, Cummings was able to undertake a National Institutes of Health–approved project...benefiting human and animal liver research.

When the couple expressed an interest in making a gift (their second) to Cummings, the woman asked for a wish list. The top priority: replace the fluoroscopy suite’s surgical light and monitor, so unwieldy that they hampered interventional radiology. Cunningham feared those would cost more than the couple had in mind, but the donors generously funded a monitor and light suspended from the ceiling. No longer does the team have to “crane our necks to see the screen wearing lead aprons,” says Rush. “We can direct the light where we need it, improving our ability to work while maintaining sterility.”

The cat-loving donors didn’t hesitate just because most interventional radiology is performed on dogs. Which is a good thing: Cunningham first used the new equipment as she treated a form of heart block—in a cat.



purchase the scanner. “Zelda, who had no children of her own, treated her dogs like her children. When one was ill, she would do anything it would take,” says longtime friend Diane Costa.

The unit’s imaging ability yields sharper images, and its speed allows use of short-duration sedatives instead of anesthesia, says radiologist Mauricio Solano, VR94. It can also pick up subtle abnormalities by creating three-dimensional volumes of data in any orientation, says radiologist Amy Sato, VR00. And thanks to this scanner, Cummings was able to undertake a

Dental School “Rapid Response Team” Pulls Together to Honor Beloved Mentor and Colleague

Christine Benoit, D77, D09P, and Robert Amato, D80, DG83, may have set a new speed record: in honor of their longtime mentor and colleague Dr. Vangel R. Zissi, D62, DG67, A02P, Benoit and Amato convened a group of former students and friends to fund one of the School of Dental Medicine’s new state-of-the-art operatories—in just two weeks.

“Everyone we called to join our efforts leapt at the chance to honor this great man who has been such a leader, teacher, mentor, and friend to all of us in the Tufts community,” says Benoit.

One of the first graduates of the school’s postdoctoral endodontics program and a professor at Tufts for decades, Zissi has been a part of the dental school’s community since his matriculation 51 years ago. Now director of its Division of Continuing Education and a leader in the International College of Dentists, Zissi is widely recognized throughout the dental community for his expertise in the practice of endodontics and his dedication to service.

“All the people I contacted about our effort told me that their lives would not be as good—that the entire profession of dentistry would not be as good—were it not for Dr. Zissi,” says Amato, who joined Zissi’s dental practice after completing postdoctoral training in endodontics at Tufts. “He and I have worked