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Cummings Veterinary Fund

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CUMMINGS VETERINARY FUND
200 Westboro Road
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(t) 508.839.7902 (f) 508.839.7232

November 1, 2008

[Field]
[Field]
[Field]
[Field]

Dear [field],

Impressive. That, in a word, describes the accomplishments that have marked the past year at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. The quality of our students remains exceptional; our global imprint deepens; and clinical innovations and discoveries—coupled with continued excellence in care—improve patient outcomes. The common thread in all of our accomplishments is our mission to improve the health and well-being of animals, people, and the environment in which we live.

“We have to save it”

Take Cara Kneser, V10, a mother of four who commutes 78 miles each way between the Cummings School and her Connecticut home on weekdays. At 46, this long-time dairy farm worker is pursuing a dream to be a veterinarian. Her reason? “I’m a big believer in New England agriculture,” she says. “We have to save it.” An endowed scholarship helps Cara receive a first-rate veterinary education so that she can contribute her talents—and help meet a critical need as the number of farm animal veterinarians dwindles.

“We’re all dependent on each other”

Cummings faculty link human and animal health by combating diseases that spread to humans from animals. In Indonesia, they have worked with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization to train community groups to monitor and respond to avian influenza outbreaks in backyard poultry. Joann Lindenmayer, V85, M.P.H., associate professor of Environmental and Population Health; Ethan Fechter-Leggett, V10; and Stacie Dunkle, V07, MPH07, are studying the lessons learned so far from the project. Their analysis will lead to improving community-based disease surveillance and management programs in Indonesia and elsewhere. “You can’t have good human health without good animal health,” states Lindenmayer. “We’re all dependent on each other.”

“Pertinent to all animals”

Laboratory researcher Cynthia Webster, V91, associate professor of Clinical Sciences, echoes the sentiment. Webster is exploring hormonal pathways that may counteract liver damage from toxin buildup. “This work is pertinent to all animals, even the ‘human animal,’” she stresses. Her discoveries could lead to drug therapies that slow the progression of liver disease. At the Foster Hospital for Small Animals, clinical faculty often explore new therapies by looking to human medicine. John Rush, D.V.M., D.A.C.V.I.M.

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- I would like to make a gift in honor of
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If you make your gift through a charitable gift fund or foundation, please identify the person who should receive gift credit.

Gifts to the University are tax deductible as allowed by the law in the United States and Canada. To ensure proper gift credit to alumni married to other alumni, both alumni will receive equal credit and will be recognized for the entire gift.

MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts can double or even triple your gift to Cummings. If you are affiliated with a matching fit company, please contact your personnel office to obtain a form and send it with your gift.

GIFT PLANNING

- I have already included Cummings in my will.
- I am considering including Cummings in my will.
- I am interested in gifts that provide income for life.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Online: www.tufts.edu/vet/

By phone: 866-351-5184

Giving securities: 617-627-3171

CUMMINGS VETERINARY FUND

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(Cardiology), associate chair of Clinical Sciences, heads a team that uses fluoroscopy and ultrasonography to treat various vascular conditions in cats and dogs in innovative, less invasive ways. Catheters are used to deliver coils, stents, and other devices, achieving better outcomes with less pain and quicker recovery.

“Empathy and compassion”

Third in the nation among veterinary school teaching hospitals in the number of small-animal patient visits annually, the Foster Hospital sets high goals for its care. “We expect our students not just to acquire scientific knowledge, but also to develop empathy and compassion,” says Annette Rauch, V86, MS00, clinical assistant professor of Environmental and Population Health. “This is how they excel as veterinarians.” As interim director of Cummings’ Shelter Animal Medicine program, Rauch is committed to interdisciplinary shelter medicine. She is also faculty advisor for the Tufts Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, which focuses on professional and organizational roles in shelter medicine, including reporting animal abuse; and humane, ethical animal care in the shelter setting.

Learn, explore, care—and contribute

We’d like you to be a part of the work of the Cummings community as we continue to learn, explore, care, and contribute. We invite *you* to:

Learn more about the facets of our work at the Cummings School—and how that work is making a difference to animals, humans, and the environment—through our magazine, *Tufts Veterinary Medicine*, sent three times a year to donors.

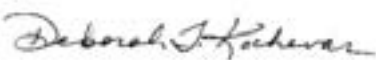
Explore new ways to participate. Take turns with others in a round-the-clock watch over newborn foals, for example. Contribute to the Pet Loss Support Hotline. Or support a middle- or high-school student’s chance to explore the veterinary profession through Adventures in Veterinary Medicine, Cummings’ summer discovery program.

Care, for reasons that Claude Brenner—who has remembered Cummings in his will—expresses best: “What my cats taught me was about love...for all of nature’s creatures. They also gave me a deep respect and admiration for the devoted human beings who dedicate themselves to the care and well-being of creatures who can’t say where it hurts.”

Contribute with a generous gift today, perhaps to convey condolences to someone who has lost a beloved pet, welcome a new pet to someone’s family, or show appreciation to your veterinarian.

Please join the enthusiastic community of those whose gifts provide scholarships to deserving students, resources to faculty, and support for our teaching hospitals and clinics. Your participation is a gift to future veterinarians and all that benefit from their work: animals, humans, and the environment in which we live.

Sincerely,



Deborah T. Kochevar, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Henry and Lois Foster Professor

Dean