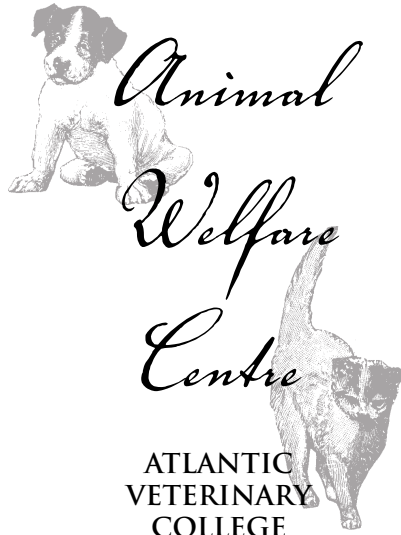


SIR JAMES DUNN



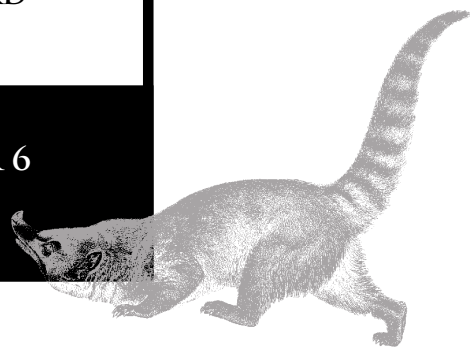
*Animal
Welfare
Centre*

ATLANTIC
VETERINARY
COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF
PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND



NEWSLETTER 6
FALL • 2000





From the Coordinator's Desk

The year 2000 has been an exciting one for animal welfare at the Atlantic Veterinary College. Through the generosity of the Sir James Dunn and Friends of the Christofor Foundations, the Animal Welfare Unit (1994) has expanded to the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre. Cornerstones of the Centre are a Research Chair in Animal Welfare; a significant increase in funding for service and applied research projects; relevant undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programmes; and the Coordinator of the Centre.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Caroline J. Hewson as our new Research Chair in Animal Welfare. Dr. Hewson's background includes a veterinary degree from the National University of Ireland, experience with small animal practice in the UK, a PhD in the field of clinical behaviour from the University of Guelph, and work in clinical trials research in the UK. Her vision for the Centre is based on a scientifically rigorous and broadly based research programme addressing the complex issues of animal welfare in today's world, with a strong profile so that relevant information will reach the appropriate audiences (veterinarians, owners, et cetera) and that provides education and leadership in animal welfare within the University, across Canada, and internationally.

The official launch of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre took place on September 27. Special guests included Mr. Mike Doyle and Dr. Tom Taylor (New Brunswick) and Ms Tjebbi Kits (UK) of the Sir James Dunn and Friends of the Christofor Foundations, the Honorable Jeff Lantz, PEI Minister of Education, and Ms Heather Irving and Ms Pat LeGrow, Executive Director and President of the PEI Humane Society. The recognition plaque was unveiled by Tek (a Labrador retriever), partly in acknowledgement of the late Lady Beaverbrook's (formerly Lady Dunn) life-long love of dogs.

Providing tangible benefits for companion animals, horses and wildlife remains the focus of the Centre. In this newsletter you will find information on the 12 projects funded, and 5 completed, this year. This brings the total to 46 projects supported by the Animal Welfare Unit since 1994. Twenty-seven of these have been completed, enhancing in many diverse ways the well-being of companion animals, horses and wildlife in Atlantic Canada and beyond, either directly or through the information disseminated through the projects. Please visit our website for further information.

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Message from the Research Chair

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre is the only funded centre in Canada, and one of few in the world, dedicated to research on the well-being of dogs, cats and horses. This is significant because as we become more conscious of animals' inherent value and of their importance to us, we become more concerned about our responsibilities towards them. Such concern brought animal welfare science into being in the 1960s and is leading to improvements in the welfare of farm animals. The welfare issues of farmed species are different from the issues of companion animals, and research on companion animal welfare has not received as much funding and attention. The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre is therefore a very exciting development.

My job at the Centre is to develop a welfare research programme that delivers tangible benefits to dogs, cats and horses. Research on their welfare is already being done by experts in several countries and I am looking forward to building collaborative links with those researchers and with colleagues at the Atlantic Veterinary College. At present, I am detailing a research programme and planning the recruitment of graduate students. The programme has three main areas:

- overall well-being. This area includes studies of how companion animals think and behave. Through this research, we plan to develop an index to measure welfare in each species.
- biological functioning. This area comprises clinical research, including assessments of the 'placebo effect' and complementary therapies.
- animal management. This research area will examine issues of training, breeding, transport and the human-animal bond.

The research programme will run alongside the individual projects that the Centre is continuing to fund, that benefit companion animals, horses and wildlife.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the work of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre. I look forward to keeping you informed of the challenges and progress of our research programme.

NEWLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

Marine wildlife rehabilitation

Drs. P. Daoust, C. Runyon, and A. Ortenburger

Marine mammals and birds such as harp and harbour seals, blue herons, northern gannets and common loons are often brought to AVC for veterinary care because of injury, disease, or (with newborns) abandonment. The treatment and rehabilitation of these animals presents a challenge because of their special dietary and environmental needs. AVC faculty and staff also respond to emergency calls regarding live strandings of seals, white-sided dolphins and pilot whales, some of whom receive medical treatment in an attempt to lessen the stress and shock associated with stranding.

The primary objective of this project was to maintain and improve upon the level of care provided, including medical treatment of the animals (supported by appropriate laboratory tests), provision of an adequate diet, and improvement of holding facilities. This objective was achieved except perhaps for the limited space available to seals. The period of care ranged from a few days to several weeks. A few examples include a very thin juvenile grey seal which was released in good body condition this spring, a recently born but already weaned harp seal with a severely injured flipper (on which Dr. Ortenburger performed surgery, and which was also released this spring) and an orphan harbour seal which was released to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park in Nova Scotia because he was too small to be released into the wild this summer or fall. At the Park he joined another male harbour seal cared for earlier at AVC.

Some of the project funding was used to purchase basic feeding equipment, and to improve the holding facilities for marine animals at AVC. Further improvements are needed to the size and quality of the holding facilities, to achieve successful rehabilitation of species that are less adaptable and resilient than seals, such as some marine birds which are far more delicate and prone to stress and disease when held, even temporarily, in captivity. This summer a thin orphan harbour porpoise (estimated to be 4-6 weeks old) was presented to AVC. Unfortunately, attempts to find a facility in the Eastern US with the resources and personnel to care for this animal were unsuccessful. Without appropriate facilities at AVC, it was decided that the most humane course of action was euthanasia.

Many veterinary students from first to fourth year are involved directly in the care of these animals and in the process, learn about necessary aspects of this care (knowledge of the life history of the animals, methods of restraint, diet). Some of the investigators' experiences this past year are being written up for publication, to illustrate the role that veterinarians can and should play in dealing with wild animals in distress.

The majority of animals cared for through this project were young seals in poor body condition. In the wild, death from starvation following weaning is a very common and natural phenomenon in these animals, affecting hundreds, if not thousands, each year. The purpose of wildlife rehabilitation is not to pretend to alter this picture, but rather to be able to respond in a sensible manner to the concerns of people encountering weakened animals, to learn about the biology and medical needs of these animals, and, in the

process, to provide some benefit to a very small fraction of their populations.



Release of harp seal. Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials, and AVC students.

Blood test to evaluate spay status in dogs

Drs. R. Lofstedt and J. Van Leeuwen

The original objective of this project was to evaluate a simple blood test for its ability to distinguish between intact and neutered male and female dogs and cats. There was found to be too much seasonal fluctuation in hormone levels in cats so the study was narrowed to dogs.

Determining if a young mature female dog has already been neutered has become more difficult for humane societies and veterinarians, due to the increasing incidence of spaying in very young animals, along with improved surgical techniques such as the use of non-irritating skin sutures. Early-age neutering is safe and is expected to help decrease the pet overpopulation problem; however it increases the possibility that puppies and kittens neutered very early may again be presented for surgery, especially if they change owners. One American humane society has estimated that 5 to 15 per cent of the animals they operate on have been previously spayed, resulting in unnecessary anaesthesia, surgical preparation, and skin incision for the animals and a waste of valuable time and scarce resources for the humane society/veterinarian.

Dr. Lofstedt hypothesized that the hormone which is elevated periodically in association with ovulation in fertile female dogs (luteinizing hormone, LH) remains elevated indefinitely in dogs that have been spayed. The purpose of this project was to determine if hyper-secretion of the hormone is a consistent feature in spayed female dogs and if so, whether the test can accurately detect previously spayed animals, even several years after surgery.

In order to look at all the variables, serum samples were tested for LH concentration from several groups of dogs - shortly after spaying in dogs that had at least one heat cycle, shortly after spaying in dogs that had never had a heat cycle (ie. less than 6 months of age), samples from dogs of greater than 2 years of age who had been spayed without having a heat cycle, and finally samples from dogs who had been spayed for at least 5 years.

The results showed that a single, low serum LH concentration is an excellent indicator of intact status (never spayed). A single high LH test does not reliably indicate that a dog has been spayed; however 3 successive high tests do. In humane societies therefore, a single

low test result would indicate that the animal is fertile, and 3 successive high tests would provide the information that the dog has been spayed. Given that the cost of the test is about \$7.00, and the cost of surgery more than 10 times that, it is expected that humane societies will find this test very useful in eliminating unnecessary surgeries in dogs that have already been spayed.

The results of this study will be published in the veterinary literature, and the company that produces the test will be encouraged to provide it at low cost to humane societies for further evaluation in a practical setting.

Health Management Services for the PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc. (1998-2000)

Drs. W. Duckett, T. Ogilvie, B. Gilroy, G. Conboy

The PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc. (PEIERS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of horses destined to be destroyed or shipped for the meat industry, and to finding new homes for them as pets or pleasure horses. Through the support of the Animal Welfare Unit, AVC has provided preventive medical care to the horses at the Society since the facility began operating in 1996. The objectives are to provide basic preventive medicine to incoming and resident horses, to minimize the spread of respiratory disease and decrease parasite burdens at the facility, to increase the adoptability of the horses, and to provide field experience for senior veterinary students.

As of October 2000, 24 horses have been donated to the PEIERS and 8 have been adopted out to new homes. Each of these horses, through this project, has received a physical examination, vaccination against influenza, rhinopneumonitis and tetanus, parasite treatment, and dental floating as required. Routine fecal flotations on the herd have been performed at each visit to monitor individual



Feline farm "help" at the PEIERS.

parasite burdens. Senior veterinary students have been involved in each of the visits to the facility, thereby providing an opportunity for them to perform routine equine management work not commonly seen in academic practice.

Benefits to the horses are many. Current vaccination and parasite management strategies are particularly important in a facility that has constant movement of horses in and out of the herd, to minimize respiratory disease and control parasites. Physical assessment of each donated horse provides an opportunity to assess its adoptability, as special needs or concerns for potential new owners can be addressed. These preventive practices help provide the donated horses with a healthy start prior to their adoption to new homes. Once initiated at the PEIERS facility,

continued health care for adopted horses is a requirement of the adoption agreement.

Guidelines for the health care of the horses are established with their new owners prior to adoption and include requirements for an annual health certificate from a licensed veterinarian, documentation of an appropriate vaccination and parasite control schedule, and documentation of routine hoof care by a qualified farrier.

As a nonprofit organization, the PEIERS relies on private and corporate sponsorship of finances, goods and services to continue operation.



Ultimate Speed" receiving dental work.

The veterinary services donated through this AVC-funded project not only ensure good health care for the horses, but tremendously decrease the financial burden of providing that care. These services are very much appreciated by the Board of the PEIERS.

In summary, this project provides the means to help maximize the quality of life for the retired horses who receive a second chance at the PEIERS. Funding has been renewed for two years to continue this project.

Medical and Surgical Care of Homeless Animals (1998-2000)

Dr. K. Gibson

Since first receiving funding in 1994, this project has focused on the problems of pet overpopulation and care of homeless animals at the regional level. Over 1350 dogs and cats have been AVC patients through this programme during the past six years.

More than 850 animals from the PEIHS, the Moncton SPCA, and the Amherst animal shelter have come to AVC for neutering. Animals selected for elective neutering are vaccinated and dewormed prior to surgery; post-operatively these animals are returned to the shelters for adoption. More than 500 animals were brought to the AVC by animal shelters and Good Samaritans for treatment of illness or injury. Their problems included broken bones, frostbite, infectious diseases, gunshot wounds, abandonment and neglect. Physical examinations, bloodwork, radiographs, or other specialized diagnostic examinations were performed as needed. Initial emergency care was administered, and continued medical care and definitive treatment of injuries were provided in consultation with the shelter.

Companion animal neuters of shelter animals are performed during

the third year surgery course, in the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital by fourth year students and interns, and during an annual Spay Day (fourth year students). This project increases the number of animals from shelters who are neutered prior to adoption; elective neutering of these homeless animals makes them more “adoptable”. Because they have been vaccinated, dewormed, and neutered, they are unlikely to be a financial burden to a new owner. They are less likely to have undesirable behaviors and will no longer parent unwanted litters. There are also well documented health benefits to early elective neutering for both dogs and cats, such as the prevention of some types of cancer and serious infections.

The immediate access to medical or surgical treatment supported by this project provides direct benefits to sick or injured animals. Many are deserving of a “second chance” - in spite of illness or pain, they are trusting, friendly and affectionate. Because of this funding, the necessary veterinary care is readily available, and once healthy, these animals are placed in adoptive homes.

Unanticipated advantages resulting from this programme include pre-adoption physical examinations performed on shelter animals by AVC students and clinicians, and a marked increase in the awareness of companion animal welfare issues at AVC. Topics for discussion include the situation of shelter animals, the contributions that veterinarians can make to shelters, and population control.

Funding for this project has been renewed for two years.



Senior veterinary students with 4 dogs from local animal shelters that have just been neutered. The dogs are then returned to the shelters for adoption.

Teaching schoolchildren about humane animal care (1999-2000) Dr. K. Gibson and Ms D. Dunn

This project was developed in 1997 to educate schoolchildren about the enjoyment and realities of having a pet, and to encourage safe and considerate interaction with animals through classroom presentations by veterinary students. Topics include choosing a pet that is right for you and your family, caring for your pet, and first aid. For older grades there are discussions about our societal responsibilities to pets, with reference to pet overpopulation and euthanasia. Lesson plans, videos, and a French-English colouring book have been put together as supplements to the visits.

During the past year, several of the existing lesson plans were revised, additional classroom aids were created, new veterinary student participants were recruited and oriented, and new pets were evaluated for their suitability for a classroom visit. School principals

and teachers were contacted to inform them about the programme and to invite their participation. Between June 1999 and June 2000, over 60 classroom presentations were made to more than 1500 schoolchildren in grades 1 through 9 in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. In post-visit evaluations, teachers consistently commented on the energy of the presenters, the value of the information, and the enthusiastic response of the children.

Several of the veterinary students who participated in the programme requested lesson plan books so that they could give presentations in their home communities in Atlantic Canada and the United States. The lesson plans have been supplied on request to several humane societies across Canada. The lesson plans and graphics have now been put on CD for easier distribution to interested individuals, schools, and animal shelters. (Contact acrook@upei.ca for more information).

Funding for this project has been renewed for two years.

Note: As they become available, publications for these and previously completed projects are listed on our website. Please see www.upei.ca/~awc/publications, or contact editor for a list.

NEW PROJECTS—2000

Twelve projects were funded through the Animal Welfare Centre in 2000. Nine of these are new endeavours, and 3 are renewals of previously funded projects.

Hearing loss in dogs with end stage ear disease Drs. K. Gibson and D. Shaw

External ear infections occur commonly in dogs, especially in breeds such as the cocker spaniel. Chronic infection causes permanent changes to the tissues of the ear, leading to a narrowed, inflexible and inflamed ear canal. Infection may eventually spread to the middle ear, causing severe constant pain in and around the ear. This condition is called end stage ear disease and can only be resolved by surgical removal of the ear canal and the inflamed and infected tissue of the middle ear.

Owners are concerned that their pet may be deaf after the surgery, and this can lead to a delay in treatment. There is little information in the veterinary literature about hearing loss, either due to the condition itself, or due to corrective surgery. This study will evaluate hearing capacity in dogs who are at AVC for treatment of this condition, and the results will be used to educate veterinarians and owners about the likelihood of deafness as a result of severe chronic ear disease and its surgical treatment.

Improved diagnosis of Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) in cats Drs. C. Yason, S. Burton, A. Lopez, D. Shaw, and Mr. G. Thompson

Feline infectious peritonitis is a serious viral disease that affects cats, causing debilitation, suffering and ultimately, death. The disease often affects young cats and is common in animal shelters and multiple cat households. The clinical signs of FIP are similar to many other diseases. There is no accurate blood test for the illness, so that a definite diagnosis is often only made on post-mortem

examination. Because of the lack of early methods of diagnosis, veterinarians and owners face the difficult decision of whether to euthanize a cat with suspected FIP, or to wait, recognizing that the cat may infect others.

The goal of this project is to use technology developed by Dr. Yason's laboratory at AVC, to try to develop a test to detect the quantity of virus in blood and to see whether this information can be used for earlier diagnosis of FIP, before it progresses to the terminal stage.

Anesthetic management and complications in draft horses

Drs. C. Riley, D. Riedesel, I. Dohoo and Ms S. Ryan

Emergencies and complications may occur during anesthesia of both people and animals. These are of particular concern in larger animals. There are anatomic and physiologic differences between draft horses and the light horse breeds that cause greater sensitivity to some of the sedative drugs used. The large size of these horses also poses practical problems both during anesthesia and during recovery, which can be dangerous to both the horse and the medical personnel involved.

This study will compare the clinical case records of draft horses anesthetized between 1990 and 1998, with those of light horses, looking at anesthetic drugs and protocols used, and the occurrence of anesthetic complications. The goal is to make recommendations that will decrease the complication rate associated with anesthesia of draft horses.

Earlier diagnosis of chronic liver disease in dogs

Drs. C. Fuentealba, K. Gibson and B. Esparza

Chronic liver disease is diagnosed with increasing frequency in dogs. The end-result is significant scarring of liver tissue, commonly known as cirrhosis. Usually by the time a dog is noticeably ill, over 70 per cent of the liver is damaged and treatment options are limited. However early liver damage can be reversed, so any improvement in the ability to detect changes sooner would improve the chances of successful treatment.

There is a natural substance called Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) that is elevated in human patients with chronic liver disease, and may reduce the extent of associated liver damage. This project will look at the role of HGF in liver disease in dogs in the hopes of improving the ability to diagnose the illness sooner and ultimately, to improve treatment options for affected dogs.

The veterinarian's role in recognizing and reporting animal abuse

Drs. L. Carioto and C. Adams

It is important that veterinarians act effectively when faced with potential animal abuse, both to protect the animal and because of growing awareness of the link between animal abuse and violence towards people, particularly other members of the family. Yet recognizing and dealing with animal maltreatment is not always straightforward, since it may range from unintentional neglect which can be resolved by client education to outright cruelty that should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

The purpose of this study is to determine the incidence of animal maltreatment (including neglect, abuse and cruelty) in Atlantic Canada

and southwestern Ontario, and then to devise guidelines and protocols for veterinarians to follow when faced with suspected abuse. Veterinary schools will be encouraged to incorporate this information into their curricula.

This study is co-funded by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, the Pet Trust Fund at the Ontario Veterinary College, and the Ontario SPCA.

Screening tests for immune failure in newborn foals

Drs. J. McClure and J. DeLuca



Human infants obtain antibodies from their mothers before birth. In contrast, foals (and other animals) are born without immune protection. Antibodies are concentrated in the mare's first milk (colostrum). Foals must stand and nurse within the first 18 to 24 hours

to absorb these antibodies, which are necessary for survival. The condition when something goes wrong with this sequence of events is called "failure of passive transfer" (FPT). Foals with FPT are prone to infections and often die.

There is considerable variation in the reliability of the tests that are used to detect FTP in newborn foals. This project will compare five currently used screening tests to determine which gives the most accurate and reliable results, and the conclusions will be published in the veterinary literature. Foals that are found to have FTP may be treated through a related project (funded in 1999 through the AWC) that is evaluating two different treatments for this life-threatening condition in foals.

TGF-beta in chronic kidney failure in dogs

Drs. D. Shaw, P. Foley, A. Cribb, and S. Burton

Chronic renal failure (CRF) is a serious disease of dogs and cats in which there is progressive loss of kidney function, ultimately causing death. TGF-beta, a small protein with many effects, may be a factor in the scarring and associated loss of function that occurs in the kidneys of animals with CRF.

This project will measure levels of TGF-beta in dogs who have CRF to determine the significance of this protein, and whether TGF-beta levels can be used to assess the severity of kidney damage and the response to treatment. Ultimately the researchers hope to find ways to block TGF-beta production and slow or halt the progression of kidney damage in CRF.

Effects of spaying on the behaviour of young female dogs

Drs. L. Bate and N. Guy

The majority of owned female dogs and cats in North America are spayed by one year of age, to prevent unwanted litters and diseases of the reproductive system. The physical and developmental effects

of spaying (ovariohysterectomy) are well-understood, but little work has been done to see if/how the procedure affects non-reproductive behaviour. Some evidence suggests that young female dogs who are anxious or are showing aggressive tendencies towards their owners, may show an increase in these behaviours after spaying.

Through surveys of Maritime dog-owners before and after their pets are spayed, this project will look at whether there is a significant behavioural effect of spaying. The study will also determine if there is a correlation between behaviour and the relative levels of reproductive hormones. The ultimate goal of the project is to add to the understanding of behaviour in dogs, in order to promote better intervention and increase the opportunities to prevent or treat problem behaviours.

Wildlife rehabilitation

Drs. H. Gelens, C. Runyon, and P-Y. Daoust

Concerned members of the public often bring orphaned or injured wild animals (birds and small mammals) to AVC to receive veterinary and nursing care. Sometimes these animals require medical attention, sometimes temporary nursing and supportive care (especially for orphaned wildlife), and sometimes the best thing for them is humane euthanasia.

Unfortunately mortality among these animals is often high due to the lack of accurate information and the inherent difficulties in the rescue and care of different species of wildlife. The goals of this project are to build upon and improve the existing level of care for these animals at AVC, partly through the purchase of specialized supplies. The project will also provide practical experience for veterinary students interested in wildlife care, equipping them to play a leadership role in this area in their communities once they graduate.

Funding has been renewed for the following projects:

Health management services for the PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc. (2000-2002)

Drs. W. Duckett and G. Conboy

Teaching PEI school children about humane animal care (2000-2002)

Dr. K. Gibson

Medical and surgical care of homeless dogs and cats (2000-2002)

Dr. K. Gibson

OTHER NEWS

CVMA Humane Award

Dr. Karen Gibson's efforts to advance companion animal welfare were recognized this summer by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Gibson received the 2000 CVMA Humane Award for her work through two AVC-funded projects.

Dr. Gibson was cited for her initiative and ongoing efforts to address the problems of homeless dogs and cats through the programme

entitled *Medical and surgical care of homeless dogs and cats*, which has been funded since 1994. In addition to coordinating this project and the third year surgery course at AVC, and fulfilling her obligations as a busy small animal surgeon, Dr. Gibson is a willing mentor for students with ideas that will benefit animals. *Teaching PEI school children about humane animal care*, is one such project, which Dr. Gibson has developed and expanded over the last 3 years, working with AVC students.

The Animal Welfare Centre congratulates Dr. Gibson on this national recognition for her unwavering commitment to companion animal welfare. Dr. Gibson's work has not only directly benefited countless dogs and cats but also has influenced the many veterinary students who participate in animal care or public education through these two projects, and will take this experience with them into the communities where they practice.

Reports on these two projects can be found on pages 3 and 4.

Christofor Award In Animal Welfare

As part of the expansion of the AWU to the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, the Christofor Award in Animal Welfare has been established to recognize a third year student in veterinary medicine who has demonstrated a sustained interest in and commitment to improving the well-being of animals. The Award is named in honour of the late Lady Beaverbrook, nee Marcia Christofrides.

The first annual Christofor Award was presented this year to AVC student Danielle Dunn who, along with her dog Bo has made many classroom visits on PEI and in Newfoundland through the Humane Education project, spreading the message of considerate and humane animal care. She was responsible for organizing the 1999-2000 group of student volunteers, publicizing the project, and coordinating the behavioural evaluation of the students' pets. In addition to her work with this project, she has volunteered at AVC with the critical care foal watch team, orphan seal rehabilitation, and wild bird rehabilitation. Before coming to AVC, Danielle was active in Rainbow Riders, a therapeutic riding organization in St. John's, Newfoundland, that matches retired horses with physically/mentally challenged children and adults. The organization enriches the lives of many riders who succeed in the programme and also has provided homes for several ponies.



Danielle Dunn and Bo in a PEI Classroom.

The AWC congratulates Danielle on receipt of this award, and has complete confidence that upon graduation from AVC, she will remain actively involved as a veterinarian in community education to improve the well-being of animals.

Ethics and Wildlife Rehabilitation

Dr. Erica Miller, a specialist in wildlife rehabilitation, recently visited the Atlantic Veterinary College. Dr. Miller is a veterinarian with Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, a private organization that is based in Newark, Delaware. Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research is known internationally for its work with birds involved in oil spills, as well as with other injured and orphaned wild birds, from hummingbirds to bald eagles.

Dr. Miller was the key note speaker at a workshop for AVC students, staff and faculty on the ethics of wildlife rehabilitation. Her presentation covered the “Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Code of Ethics”, “Standards for Rehabilitation,” and the significance of each to veterinarians and rehabilitators. The workshop also looked at the purposes, contraindications, and expected successes of rehabilitation of wild animals and reintroduction into their natural habitat. Other speakers included AVC’s Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust, Dr. Caroline Runyon, Dr. Art Ortenburger, and Dr. Hans Gelens.

While at AVC, Dr. Miller also gave a public talk on this subject, addressing the ethical concerns involved with rehabilitating wildlife, and sharing her experiences and viewpoints.

Faculty, staff and students at the Atlantic Veterinary College assist with the rehabilitation of wildlife through projects supported by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre. Dr. Miller’s visit was sponsored by the Centre, AVC’s Companion Animal and Pathology/ Microbiology Departments, and the Wildlife and Exotics Club.

MANDATE

The Animal Welfare Centre (AWC) exists to promote animal health and well-being in the broadest sense.

Objectives:

- 1) The AWC promotes research projects and service activities where there is a clear potential for tangible benefits to animals.
- 2) The AWC serves as a resource centre to compile, generate, and disseminate information relevant to the well-being of animals.
- 3) The AWC strives to raise the awareness of the public and the veterinary profession on broad questions of animal welfare and animal use, and to provide accurate, scientifically based information on these questions.

The Animal Welfare Centre gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the Sir James Dunn Foundation and the Friends of the Christofor Foundation.



Dr. Norma Guy and Tek unveiling the recognition plaque at the official launch of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, September 27, 2000.