



Ontario Veterinary College
PET TRUST FUND

Best Friends

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BEST FRIENDS OF PET TRUST IS
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PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE



Sniffing out clues to cancer

U of Guelph cancer institute to take a bite out of deadly disease

JOYFULLY BOUNCING AROUND the treatment room as only a yellow lab can, Nora showed no signs of having just undergone chemotherapy for osteosarcoma.

But then she's made a lot of friends at the OVC Teaching Hospital since December, when veterinarians in Guelph confirmed that she had cancer in the cheekbone below her right eye. Nora and her owner, Nelson Perel, pictured above, had been making the four-hour round-trip from their home near Buffalo, N.Y., about once a month ever since — first for surgery, then for chemotherapy.

On this day, after Nora's fifth chemo treatment, Perel was hoping for good news — and he got it. X-rays showed that the cancer had not spread to her lungs.

"The problem with this type of cancer is that by the time you detect it, it's often too late," said Perel. "If we had done nothing, she'd be gone by now."

Six months ago, Perel was told that with surgery and follow-up chemotherapy, Nora's chances of surviving another year increased to 70% and she may live much longer.

"For us it was an easy decision to make," he said. As it turned out, Nora was her old self again within days of surgery and has shown no ill effects due to chemotherapy.

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UNIVERSITY
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CHANGING LIVES
IMPROVING LIFE

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Only time will tell, but Nora's story could very well have a happy ending. And there are many more good news stories on the horizon thanks to a bold new partnership involving the OVC Pet Trust, the University of Guelph and the Ontario Veterinary College.

OVC Pet Trust will raise \$10-million to support the OVC Animal Cancer



Dr. Richard Liddell '69, third from left, and some of the Ajax Animal Hospital team including (from right) Dr. David Manuel '69, Karen Manuel, Lynn Liddell, Dr. Karyn Jones, OVC '01, and Scott McRobbie, at the 2007 Pet Trust Forum.

Ajax clinic supports cancer centre

OVC-trained veterinarians challenge colleagues to step up

SUPPORTERS AT THE AJAX ANIMAL HOSPITAL are challenging their fellow practitioners to join them in support of Pet Trust's cancer initiative.

Drs. Richard Liddell and David Manuel, both alumni of the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), recently pledged \$50,000 over 10 years on behalf of the Ajax Animal Hospital toward the OVC Animal Cancer Centre.

"OVC gave us our foundation in veterinary medicine. So it's time we gave something back," he said. "It doesn't have to be \$50,000 — spread it out over a few years and it doesn't hurt. Then hopefully we can get a lot accomplished."

The centre will provide comprehensive cancer care for pets, advance clinical research and train future cancer specialists. That approach appeals to Liddell and his colleagues for both personal and professional reasons.

"The first reason is obvious. Cancer touches everyone. There is no one who is not affected by cancer," said Liddell, whose 36-year-old son Matthew is a cancer survivor. Matthew's five-year-old daughter Quinn is battling leukemia, and Liddell lost a cousin, Doug, to leukemia in 1976. Had he been diagnosed today, Doug would probably be a survivor too, said Liddell, who has also recently lost clients to cancer.

The OVC Animal Cancer Centre is a giant step forward for companion animals and people to help them battle the disease, and for veterinarians who will benefit from having access to a world-class cancer centre for their clients, he said.

Centre, the clinical arm of the new Institute for Comparative Cancer Investigation (ICCI) at the University of Guelph.

The ICCI is dedicated to providing comprehensive cancer care for companion animals and unlocking the deadly secrets of the disease for the benefit of all species, including humans. The Animal Cancer Centre will operate within the OVC Teaching Hospital, providing leading edge diagnostic imaging, cancer treatment, veterinary teaching and clinical research.

The initiative has been led by ICCI's co-directors, Dr. Brenda Coomber, a molecular biologist and cancer investigator in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Dr. Paul Woods, an oncologist in the Department of Clinical Studies.

"While in general our pets are living longer, healthier lives, as they get older they are also prone to cancer — just like people," said Woods. "Dogs, in particular, develop many of the same types of cancers that we find in people. So by studying dogs with cancer, we can help fight and perhaps even prevent the disease in humans while improving care for the animals."

OVC Pet Trust will play an essential role in the cancer centre's success.

"We are very excited to be part of this ground breaking initiative," said Mary Waddell, chair of the Pet Trust board of Trustees. "This cancer centre will be the first of its kind in Canada providing comprehensive cancer care for companion animals. We need your help in bringing this vision to life and in continuing to support the first-class research carried out at the Ontario Veterinary College."

Coomber said the ICCI incorporates collaborative research of more than 30 cancer investigators at the U of G and broadens the scope of cancer studies to deepen our understanding of the disease.

"This aspect of the ICCI is unique because it will facilitate interactions not only between clinicians and cancer biologists but also among chemists, mathematicians, computer scientists, toxicologists, psychologists and others with expertise and interest in diverse aspects of cancer," said Coomber.



Studies support 'old-fashioned' treatment for common problem

Good news for pets prone to ear infections

VETERINARIANS MAY BE LESS likely to prescribe antibiotics and surgery to treat chronic ear infections, thanks to pioneering work carried out at the Ontario Veterinary College with support from OVC Pet Trust.

Otitis externa — the inflammation or infection of the outer ear canal — is a very common problem in dogs that can make up 15 to 20% of the caseload at a typical veterinary clinic.

“It is a huge problem,” said Dr. Jan Hall, a professor in the Department of Clinical Studies and dermatology specialist at the OVC Teaching Hospital. “It causes a lot of pain and discomfort for the patient and can be a source of tremendous frustration for owners and veterinarians because it is sometimes very difficult to treat.”

Typically, pet owners and veterinarians will opt for a “quick fix” of antibiotics without first determining the underlying cause. Trouble is, the drugs don’t always work and in stubborn cases, the veterinarian may try a variety of topical and oral antibiotics that in the end only make matters worse, by encouraging the growth

of antibiotic-resistant organisms.

“We went back to basics and discovered that the basics work very well,” said Hall.

The “basics” are a variety of simple medical treatments including treating the ears with a mixture of 2% Burow’s solution and 1% hydrocortisone in propylene glycol (BHC) drops.

Burow’s solution was invented in the mid-1800s and used quite effectively in treating ear problems before falling out of favour in the age of modern pharmaceuticals.

Over the past two years, OVC Pet Trust has supported a series of studies to re-evaluate the efficacy of Burow’s solution and compare it to commonly used antibiotics.

Hall is also nearing completion of a study evaluating new treatments for Cocker spaniels with “end stage” ear disease: the point where surgery — involving removal of the infected ear canal — has traditionally been the only option.

“Our philosophy has been to encourage the ear to look after itself and we’ve been very encouraged by the results,” said Hall.

OVC Pet Trust supports investigations that advance the health and quality of life for companion animals. So far this year, OVC Pet Trust has invested in projects ranging from using stem cells to repair bone cartilage in dogs to the creation of a digital image database for veterinary neurology. For a complete summary of recent Pet Trust-funded research, go to www.pettrust.ca

Prick up your ears

- The L-shaped canine ear canal is great for hearing but bad for trapping moisture, parasites and wax that can trigger ear infections
- Floppy-eared breeds of dogs such as spaniels and hounds are the most prone to ear problems. The thickness of the wall of the ear canal is also thought to be a factor in other breeds such as the Sharpei and bulldogs, whose thicker ears seem to make them more susceptible
- Allergies, yeast and bacterial infections are the most common causes of ear problems in dogs while ear mites are the most likely source of infection in cats
- Signs of infection: the pet is repeatedly scratching or rubbing its ears; shaking or holding its head to one side; yellow, brown or black discharge from one or both ears; ears smell bad or are red and tender

The tremendous success of the OVC Pet Trust Fund would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our community of supporters. In each issue of this newsletter, we will focus on the contributions of special friends like you.

Nurturing the bond

Grassroots focus celebrates ties between people and their pets

IN HIS 30-YEAR CAREER, Dr. Brian Crabbe has experienced first-hand the power of OVC Pet Trust, both as a health-care provider and as an animal owner.

“As soon as Pet Trust started I recognized it as a great way to support the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) as well as to recognize my clients’ bond to their pets, especially through memorial giving,” said Crabbe, who graduated from the OVC in 1977.

Crabbe, whose association with the OVC Pet Trust Fund goes back to its inception in 1986, is stepping down this summer after six years as chair of the board of trustees.

As the owner of the Port Elgin Veterinary Clinic, Crabbe said the key to OVC Pet Trust’s success lies in its grassroots focus and its recognition of the power of the bond between people and their pets.



He experienced it for himself eight years ago, when his family lost their beloved Lady, a 10 1/2-year-old Bouvier, to cancer.

“I have received those letters from the Dean of OVC acknowledging the people

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A foundation for the future

Connecting with students before they go into practice

YOUR GIFTS to OVC Pet Trust make a difference in so many ways, including providing enhanced training opportunities for student veterinarians at the Ontario Veterinary College. In the past year, we have expanded the Pet Trust Board of Trustees to include student representation. Veterinary students juggle a gruelling schedule during their four years at the Ontario Veterinary College. Yet they still find time to get involved in a good cause. And a growing number are passionate about OVC Pet Trust.

“The Pet Trust message really speaks to them and I have no trouble getting six or

seven volunteers when I need them,” said Jackie Parr, one of two student representatives on the OVC Pet Trust board.

“I’ve also been impressed by how many have asked me how to make donations. For students to be doing that on a really tight budget tells how important it is.”

Support from Pet Trust enhances students’ education by supporting programs at the OVC and providing them with networking opportunities at events such as veterinary conferences, the annual Pet Trust Forum, and Woofstock, a festival for dogs held in Toronto.

One of Parr’s roles is to “get the word out” to students that OVC Pet Trust provides essential support for companion animal health investigations — funding that otherwise would not be available.

“Getting students on board is an important step because they’ll soon be out working in the clinics and taking the Pet Trust message to their clients.”

Audi leaves legacy of healing and hope

'Queen of Hearts' was companion of Blues

SUZI BEBER HAS KNOWN many physical and emotional challenges in recent years, and through it all her spirit and her health has been buoyed by some very special dogs that came into her life when she needed them most.

Beber, founder of the Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund, was overjoyed this spring when 11 beautiful Golden retriever puppies were born to carry on the legacy of their 'grandfather' Blues, whose death due to cancer in 2001 inspired the creation of Smiling Blue Skies.

Then just two months after the puppies were born, Audi, their 'grandmother' and Blues' companion, passed away a few months shy of her 14th birthday.

"Audi was the Queen of our hearts. We miss her so much, and her absence is felt in so many things we do each day," said Beber.

Audi was also Queen of the neighbourhood and the Bagel Queen, a café where Audi and Beber's partner of 27 years, Tommy Wright, went for breakfast each day near Victoria, B.C.

Beber said Audi and Blues had a very special bond from the moment they met.

"They were glued to each other."

Together, they produced BB King, Rainey and Billie — "three angel dogs," according to Beber — and a total of 51 'grandkids.'

The descendants of Audi and Blues are all special in their own right: From family pets to service dogs, each has inherited an innate talent for connecting with people through the healing power of love.

From modest beginnings, the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund has evolved into a network of dedicated supporters that spans North America and Europe. The fund has raised more than \$100,000 for OVC Pet Trust through charity walks, agility, rally, and obedience trials, dog fancier specialties, concerts, merchandise sales, and corporate partnerships,

"For me it's a legacy of healing and hope," Beber said, "and it all started with this amazing love story of Audi and Blues."

"I think that Blues and Audi have been unbelievable ambassadors for everything that Pet Trust stands for, and Smiling Blue Skies, by working with Pet Trust, gives people somewhere concrete to put their love and devotion and memories."

At OVC Pet Trust, we receive many photos and letters about beloved pets from our family of supporters. Pet Profile highlights one of these pets in each issue of Best Friends.



An Inspiring Story

- The Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund was founded by Suzi Beber in memory of Blues, her champion Golden retriever who died of lymphoma in 1991.
- Beber credits Blues and the bonds of companionship and unconditional love for helping her rebuild her life despite chronic illness.
- Beber has once again been awarded the Golden Retriever Club of Canada's Silmaril Kennel Trophy for the Human/Animal Bond. She is the only two-time recipient of the trophy, which has only been awarded six times.
- Every dollar raised by the Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund — including proceeds from sales of limited edition gift items — is donated to OVC Pet Trust to support cancer research at the Ontario Veterinary College.
- For more information, go to www.smilingblueskies.com



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who donated in her memory,” he said. “It’s a very powerful letter and it’s very touching to be recognized by my friends for our loss. I also felt that their generosity and donations would make a long-term difference to the health and well-being of other people’s pets as well.”

During his tenure as chair, Pet Trust continued to play a key role in strengthening OVC’s position in the forefront of companion animal health care, with the successful completion of projects such as the magnetic imaging resonance (MRI) unit and 3-D ultrasound. Pet Trust has also embarked on its most ambitious initiative yet, the \$10-million campaign for a one-of-a-kind animal cancer centre at OVC.

It’s a major undertaking but the dream is already well on its way to reality thanks to the seemingly boundless capacity for giving of Pet Trust supporters, from one-time gifts of a few dollars to major annual gifts and million-dollar bequests.

“Their generosity always amazes me,” said Crabbe, adding that practicing veterinarians benefit as well.

“I make donations to Pet Trust to make an emotional difference for the owner and because it strengthens the bond with my client. As veterinarians, we benefit from the improved service that veterinarians at OVC can give us when we refer animals, and from the research funded by Pet Trust that generates new knowledge which helps us in our practices.”

Growing with the OVC Teaching Hospital

Cancer centre takes partnership to exciting new level

FOR MORE THAN 20 years, OVC Pet Trust has played a vital role in helping the Ontario Veterinary College sustain its position as a world leader in veterinary medicine, research and education.

With its \$10-million fundraising campaign in support of the OVC Animal Cancer Centre — on top of providing ongoing funding for 30 to 40 projects each year — Pet Trust is taking that partnership to an exciting new level.

“The cancer centre will be a tremendous benefit to companion animals, their owners, to our referring veterinarians and ultimately to all people touched by cancer in some way,” said Wayne Coveyduck, executive director of the OVC Teaching Hospital.

“This is also an opportunity for our organization to grow in terms of admissions and the services we offer, and to develop new facilities.”

Coveyduck came to the OVC in October 2006 after 21-year career in human health care, bringing strong business acumen and a commitment to customer service.

Coveyduck has already acquired new diagnostic imaging equipment, including a CT scanner and a state-of-the-art X-ray unit with fluoroscopy, as well as a digital archiving and communications system. Renovations this fall will accommodate the



new equipment which will also play a key role in the Animal Cancer Centre.

Building upon the existing oncology service, the cancer centre will be an integral part of the hospital. New examination rooms, chemotherapy suites, quiet family rooms and ward space for 12 to 20 pets, as well as new teaching spaces and faculty positions, will complement major upgrades already under way or planned for throughout the hospital.

“We couldn’t do it without Pet Trust,” said Coveyduck, pictured above.

“Just as they have done so many times in the past — from supporting upgrades to our intensive care unit to helping bring MRI to the College — the generosity, hard work and devotion of Pet Trust supporters will help us make this vision a reality.”





Pets have always been an important part of life for David Lyons, shown with Piper, Truffles and Grimace

OVC Pet Trust could not carry out its invaluable work without the support of people like you. In each issue of the Best Friends newsletter, we will profile some of the many special friends whose generosity will help ensure that our animal companions live longer and healthier lives.

Sharing the benefits

A gift of shares can provide you with tax benefits while supporting the OVC Pet Trust Fund.

- You receive the full tax credit for the current fair market value of your shares, plus you will not pay any capital gains tax on the appreciated value
- The gift must be of **“qualified” appreciated securities** (such as shares, mutual fund units, bonds, options) listed on a major North American stock exchange
- To benefit, you must transfer the securities as a “gift in kind” directly to the U of G’s securities account. If you sell before transferring, standard capital gains tax rules apply
- You can also enjoy a tax advantage through the gift of demutualized life insurance company shares
- For more information on making gifts of shares, as well as other gift options, contact: Alumni Affairs & Development University of Guelph 519-824-4120 ext. 56196 donations@uoguelph.ca

Sound financial planning that feels good too

Gift of shares helps pets and provides tax benefits

LIVING ON AN ACREAGE outside of Lakefield, Ont., animals of all kinds are an important part of life for David Lyons and his wife Pamela.

But none more so than their Border collie Piper and two cats, Truffles (so named because of a sinus infection that made her snuffle a lot) and Grimace (adopted after being found “grimacing” with mud packed into its lower lip).

So it’s only natural that the Lyonses would want to help their animal companions. For the last 10 years, Lyons has been a supporter of OVC Pet Trust, ever since the family veterinarian made a donation in memory of Tex, another stray cat (named in honour of the Texaco station where she was found).

“We liked the idea that Pet Trust was supporting research into companion animal diseases so decided to support it on an ongoing basis rather than as simply a memorial gift,” he said. “And we’ve kept it up at various levels ever since.”

Lyons, who had always supported a

variety of charities, recently made the decision to increase his support to Pet Trust through a gift of shares after changes to capital gains tax regulations made it advantageous to do so.

“I thought rather than giving a little bit here and there it’s better to concentrate donations in a couple of selected areas to have more of an impact. And one of those areas we selected was OVC Pet Trust.”

Lyons said one of the things that appeals to him about OVC Pet Trust is that not only does it advance the health and quality of life of companion animals, it supports investigations into diseases such as cancer which may one day benefit all species.

“Pets have been an important part of our lives so it seemed like a good place for our support,” he said, adding that the act of giving has its own rewards.

“You pick a cause that means something to you so you are getting something back. It feels good, and you are also helping somebody down the road who benefits from the work of Pet Trust.”

coming events:

LOOK FOR OVC PET TRUST AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Nov. 2-11, 2007
Exhibition Place, Toronto
- Ontario Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference
Jan. 31 - Feb. 2 2008
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto
- Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians 30th Anniversary Conference
February 21-23 2008
Sheraton Centre, Toronto

INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN EVENT TO HELP US RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO BENEFIT COMPANION ANIMALS? PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW MOORE AT 519-824-4120 EXT. 54370 OR EMAIL armoore@uoguelph.ca



Bianca Kapteyn, left and Roanna Sabeh-Azar celebrate with Michelle Belliveau at the 2007 Pet Trust Forum.

Family of friends keeps growing

Advancing our cause through music, fashion and healthy living

FROM FASHION SHOWS to barbecues, concerts and charity walks, OVC Pet Trust supporters keep coming up with imaginative ways to spread the word and raise funds on our behalf.

This summer, Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund hosted charity walks in Burlington, Gravenhurst, Montreal and Calgary. The four events raised a total of \$14,496.18.

In April, the 2007 Paws for a Cause Benefit Concert at Cowboys Bar in Guelph featured chart-topping country music entertainers and helped propel gifts from the Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund to more than \$100,000.

Roanna Sabeh-Azar of Neo-Paws International and Bianca Kapteyn of CanineCulture.ca raised \$6,000 at the Fashion Frenzy for Our Furry Friends Charity Event. About 700 people turned out at the Ultra Supper Club in Toronto for the gala fashion show for pets and people.

Best Friends

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