



## Animal advocate leaves \$7.5 million to OVC

### \$3.7 million to benefit OVC Pet Trust

OVC PET TRUST will receive half of a \$7.5-million gift from the late Mona Campbell, to benefit the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). It is the University of Guelph's largest ever single donation.

A tireless advocate for animals, a supporter of the arts and a successful business leader, Mrs. Campbell was known for her passion, dedication and philanthropy. The gift will carry on Mrs. Campbell's legacy and advance the issues and research areas that were important to her: animal health and welfare research and education.

"Her legacy will be transformative for OVC," said OVC dean Elizabeth Stone.

The funds given to OVC Pet Trust in the name of Mohill Farms will be used to support OVC Pet Trust's campaign to create Canada's first comprehensive animal cancer centre.

New diagnostic techniques and treatments for pets with cancer will be developed and put into practice in the Animal Cancer Centre, which is part of the University of Guelph Institute for Comparative Cancer Investigation. In addition, cancer biologists will study the tumors that are excised from pets to learn more about why cancers occur and how they can be eliminated. This research will not only benefit animals, but also people with cancer.

The other half of the Campbell gift was given to support research and education in animal welfare. Funds will be used to fully endow a chair in companion animal welfare and to provide further support for animal welfare research and initiatives in the name of Col. K.L. Campbell, her late husband.

"We are so grateful for this incredible gift, not only for the financial support and tremendous opportunities it affords but also for the spirit in which it was made," said Alastair Summerlee, president of the University of Guelph. "It reflects Mona's passion for, and dedication to, animals."

Dean Stone, who developed a close relationship with Mrs. Campbell after joining U of G in 2005, added: "Mona entrusted us to be her stewards, which tells us that she valued what we do as important. This means a lot coming from her."

Mrs. Campbell's relationship with U of G dates back nearly two decades. Over the years, she donated more than \$1 million to various programs and efforts, especially those related to animal welfare and equine issues.

She was particularly interested in the work of animal and poultry science professor Ian Duncan, who was one of the first to bring a scientific approach to solving animal welfare problems. "Early on, she recognized Ian's pioneering work, and they remained



PHOTO COURTESY  
CAMPBELL FAMILY

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CHANGING LIVES  
IMPROVING LIFE

## Major gift announcement

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lifelong friends,” said Stone.

In 1991, Mrs. Campbell contributed \$500,000 and led a campaign for an endowed chair in animal welfare, which was named the Col. K.L. Campbell Chair in Animal Welfare after her late husband. In addition, the University’s Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare was renamed the Col. K.L. Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare.

Mrs. Campbell’s Mohill Farms, in Puslinch, Ont. was known for its numerous award-winning show horses and cattle, as well as for her beloved dogs that she had rescued. In 1994, she donated money for U of G to foster partnerships with the equine industry and to support travel grants in equine studies. She was also a strong proponent of OVC Pet Trust Fund.

U of G awarded her an honorary doctorate of laws in 1994, and she was named to the Order of Canada in 1996.

Mrs. Campbell was chairwoman and CEO of Dover Industries, a company she inherited from her father at age 33. At the time of her death in 2008, the company was Canada’s largest flour-milling company, with revenues of \$228 million and some 500 employees. She was also the first female director of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Campbell was often recognized as an outstanding business leader, but her tenacity in enterprise was matched by her generosity. She was a patron of numerous cultural, educational and business organizations, including the Royal Ontario Museum, the National Ballet of Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society.

## Studies cover cats to chameleons

### Companion animal research receives \$232,500 boost



RESEARCH INTO VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF companion animal health has received \$232,500 in funding from donations to OVC Pet Trust. The funding will support 18 projects at the Ontario Veterinary College, on topics involving companion animals such as cats, dogs, parrots, and veiled chameleons.

OVC Pet Trusts’ Companion Animal Scientific Committee awarded the funds following a Fall 2008 research competition. OVC Pet Trust Research Committee and the Companion Animal Scientific Committee reviewed 29 preproposals before the field was narrowed to the 19 projects that received funding.

“It was a particularly competitive year,” said Dr. Gordon Kirby, associate dean of innovation and research at the Ontario Veterinary College. As chair of the Pet Trust Research Committee, he also sits on the Companion Animal Scientific Committee.

Proposals are evaluated for relevance to companion animal health: Will the study improve the understanding, prevention, treatment or diagnosis of health issues most commonly resulting in disease or death

including behavioural problems affecting the human animal bond?

The committee also considers whether scientific principles followed, considering whether the rationale and hypothesis are clear, whether objectives are focused and original, and whether background information is helpful.

For a full list of projects that are being funded, see *Recent Stories* at [www.pettrust.ca](http://www.pettrust.ca)

### By the Numbers

- 29 applications submitted
- 18 projects funded
- \$232,500 total awarded
- \$28,300 highest award (see page 4)
- Studies by species:
  - 14 canine
  - 1 feline
  - 1 avian
  - 1 exotics
  - 1 other

# Taking a bite out of canine cancer

## Smiling Blue Skies: Then and Now

Jenny McAllister and Fergus take a break at the end of the Luke's Legacy fundraising walk, held last fall.

PHOTO COURTESY  
SMILING BLUE SKIES



IT BEGAN WITH ONE DOG and one caring woman who wanted to make a difference.

The dog was Blues, a Golden Retriever who arrived as “a golden bundle of fluff” and quickly became “the sun and moon and stars” to Suzi Beber and her partner, Tom Wright. Beber, who was dealing with chronic health problems, found Blues’ companionship remarkably healing, as did so many people, who lived in their neighbourhood in Bronte, Ont.

“Human beings think in terms of would haves, could haves, and should haves,” Beber says. “Dogs live in the moment. They love you unconditionally, and they enjoy every moment of every day. We can learn so much from our dogs. They remind us that every day is a celebration of life. We never know what tomorrow will bring.”

Sadly, Blues lost a valiant battle with lymphoma in the spring of 2001, and it wasn't long afterwards, that the very first fundraising walk was held in Muskoka, Ont., to honour Blues’ memory, as well as the memory of so many other companion animals who had lost their own battles, and to raise funds for OVC Pet Trust's cancer

research and treatment programs.

Today, more than eight years later, Smiling Blue Skies volunteers organize a minimum of four walks annually and participate in a variety of other events as well, from Canine Special Olympics and agility trial fundraisers, to the annual Sashettes calendar and the ongoing sale of one-of-a-kind jewelry for precious pets and people.

“Anywhere from 40 to over 100 people participate in a walk,” says Michelle Belliveau, who is the lead volunteer for the Smiling Blue Skies walks and a member of the OVC Pet Trust Board. “They raise an average of \$4,000 for the smaller ones and up to \$15,000 for a larger one, such as the 2005 walk in Oakville and the 2008 walk in Burlington.”

Beber says: “When I lost Blues to cancer, it became my mission and passion, to reach out to others whose lives have been touched by cancer and to develop a support network. Cancer touches all of us. We have all had a family member, a friend, a colleague, face cancer.

*OVC Pet Trust could not carry out its work without people like you whose generosity will help ensure that our animal companions live longer and healthier lives.*

*Smiling Blue Skies®*

Together, we can  
open a window to find  
a cure for cancer.



## Walk with Us:

**Sunday, June 14, 2009**

Beachway Park  
Burlington, Ontario  
9 am registration, 10 am walk

**Saturday, July 4, 2009**

The Muskoka Wharf  
Gravenhurst, Ontario  
12 pm registration, 1 pm walk

**Sunday, August 30, 2009**

La Parc de la Nature de Laval  
Montréal, Québec  
10 am registration, 11 am walk

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*Your donations support investigations that advance the health and quality of life for companion animals. For a complete summary of recently funded research, visit us at: [www.pettrust.ca](http://www.pettrust.ca)*

## Hail and farewell

Karen Scott has joined OVC Pet Trust as Pet Trust Co-ordinator, replacing Andrew Moore, who has left OVC Pet Trust to become co-ordinator of events and marketing for 4-H Ontario. Meg Pelton, executive assistant in the OVC Teaching Hospital, served as interim co-ordinator over the past two months.

# Setting medication protocols for cats on ventilation

## Respiratory failure treatment can require extended sedation

A previous study on cats receiving assisted ventilation revealed the need for the determination of best medication protocols.

PHOTO COURTESY ALEXA BERSENAS



JUST LIKE THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS, cats sometimes become so ill that they are in respiratory failure and can't breathe on their own. These respiratory problems can be caused by heart failure, pneumonia, asthma and other diseases or conditions. And just like humans, one treatment – used more frequently with cats and dogs today than in the past – is to assist the animal in breathing by using mechanical ventilation. Explains researcher Alexa Bersenas: "This means a tube or pipe is inserted into the airway and a machine takes over the process and moves air in and out of the patient's lungs."

To make this assisted ventilation possible, though, the cat needs to be given sedation and anaesthesia so that it is calm, comfortable and not attempting to remove the equipment. "The cat is not completely anaesthetized – you couldn't do surgery on it, for example – but it needs to be in a really groggy, groggy state," says Bersenas. "It may have to stay sedated for hours, days or even a week, so you want to minimize the side effects."

During a previous study on cats receiving assisted ventilation, Bersenas discovered that no research had been done on the best medication protocols for this procedure, and applied to do a study. The OVC Pet Trust has contributed \$23,300 to Dr. Alexa Bersenas and Dr. Carolyn Kerr to compare three different sedative and anaesthetic protocols for cats. During the study, the researchers will monitor the responses of the cats, their heart rates and oxygen levels, any side-effects of the medications, and the outcomes during the recovery period. They will also observe the length of time that each medication is effective in keeping the cat comfortable and sedated.

"Cats are more sensitive to many drugs than dogs are, so there are fewer options for them," Bersenas adds. "We are hoping to find an approach that minimizes the risk when this treatment is needed." The healthy cats being used in the study will be placed in adoptive homes afterwards and are expected to live normal lives with no long-term side effects.

# Nana Kiska a constant presence

## Memorial foundation funds feline, canine cancer research



Nana Kiska.

PHOTO COURTESY AIDAN FINN

AIDAN FINN SAYS NANA KISKA PICKED HIM. He first saw the fluffy white puppy at a Santa Claus parade; when he asked if he could hold her, the pup licked his glasses off and peed on his new jacket.

“I think she marked me as hers,” Aidan laughs. Despite that less-than-auspicious beginning, he offered to buy the puppy – which he was allowed to do only after passing inspection by the eight-year-old girl whose dog it was at the time.

The white shepherd puppy looked like a polar bear cub when she came to live with the Finns, so they adapted the Inuit word for “snow prince” for her name.

Although Aidan and his wife, Katharine, hadn’t had a dog for 20 years, Nana Kiska was soon an essential part of their family and their business – Orange aPEEL

“She was with us day and night for the next nine years,” Aidan says. “She came to work with us, and she’d come along with me when I made deliveries – she got to know all my customers.”

Katharine recalls: “I’d put her blanket outside the front door and all our employees would give her a hug and kiss as they arrived. She knew the difference between the

couriers who delivered to us – there was one she didn’t like and that was the only truck she would growl at.

“She had her favourite toys and carried her little fleece baby lamb everywhere – she never ruined a toy because she was so gentle with them.”

Nana Kiska’s sweet personality was matched by her elegant appearance. Her face, gazing thoughtfully towards the distance, appears on the Orange aPEEL pet products page of the company’s website and on the pet-friendly Orange aPEEL cleanser.

After her death from cancer in 2005, the Finns established the Nana Kiska Memorial Foundation for Canine and Feline Cancer Research; all funds raised through it are donated to OVC Pet Trust. Since June of 2005, through donations and in-kind contributions of advertising and printing, Aidan says “we’ve contributed more than \$25,000.”

“She really was a special dog,” says Katharine. “I have her pictures all over the office, and I still say good morning to her every morning, just like we always did.”

*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.*

### Showing support

En route home following the death of Nana Kiska, Aidan and Katharine Finn stopped for a coffee. They shared favourite stories, wept a lot, and made the decision to honour their dog’s memory by creating the Nana Kiska Memorial Foundation for Canine and Feline Cancer Research.

They now promote the foundation on their company’s website and help sponsor other fundraising events for animal cancer research.

Other companies support OVC Pet Trust by displaying its materials, holding fundraising events, donating a portion of sales on specific products, and making direct donations, among other activities.

Companies wanting to support the fund can contact OVC Pet Trust at [pettrust@uoguelph.ca](mailto:pettrust@uoguelph.ca) or 519-824-4120 ext. 54370.

## Technician recognized for international work



Laura Kiemele with two helpers from CLAW.  
PHOTO BY JENNIFER GERNER

In the busy weeks leading up to her departure for South Africa, Laura Kiemele RVT took the time to travel a bit closer to home – to London, Ont., where she accepted the OVC Pet Trust Award of Excellence at the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians conference on Friday, February 27.

The award recognizes the expertise of registered veterinary technicians and the important role they play in promoting the human animal bond. Kiemele was recognized for the work she has done in international animal rescue and rehabilitation.

It is this work that takes Kiemele back to South Africa. She has a 6-month contract to work with Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW), an animal welfare support group. She will use the \$500 she received as part of the OVC Pet Trust award to purchase supplies.

Kiemele, who graduated from Seneca College in 2003, has always been interested in working in international animal rescue and rehabilitation.

She first went to South Africa to take part in a program called Vets-in-the-Wild, with EcoLife International Universities Programs. “(It was) a 3-week trip that would change my life,” she says.

She has ambitious plans as she departs again for South Africa. “I hope to help run the hospital and all of the outreaches to the best of my ability. My main goal is to properly train the staff and find loving homes for all the unwanted dogs.”

## Asking rather than assuming

### Study to clarify clients’ needs during cancer treatment

IMAGINE YOUR PET HAS CANCER. There’s the shock of the initial diagnosis, the confusion over what, if any, therapeutic course to follow, and new and ongoing issues to deal with as your pet goes through care.

You hope that your vet will be able to understand and meet your needs and expectations. Veterinarians may, however, have a different perception of what those might be, than what they really are.

An OVC Pet Trust-funded study under the supervision of Dr. Jason Coe will help clarify the needs and expectations of clients whose animals are receiving treatment for cancer.

“This is an innovative exploratory study,” says Dr. Debbie Stoewen, an OVC graduate who is working toward a PhD in epidemiology. “There’s no literature on this topic involving animals and we can’t extrapolate the literature on the human experience.”

“We want to be sure that we’re actually asking clients about their needs and expectations, rather than assuming we know what they are.”

Dr. Stoewen will interview 45 clients of the OVC Oncology service whose dogs are in early, middle, or end stages of treatment for either osteosarcoma, lymphoma, or mast cell tumours – the three most commonly treated types of cancer in dogs.

“We anticipate this number of interviews will more than capture the experiences of the majority of the population,” says Dr. Stoewen. She is also a registered social worker, who started exploring the connection between communication, social work, and veterinary medicine while completing a practicum for her MSW at the OVC.

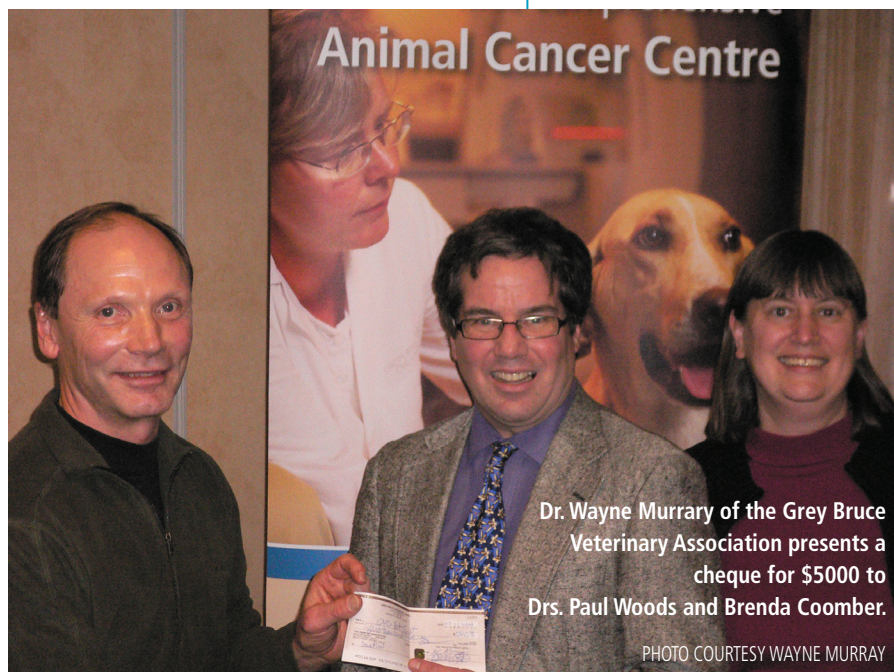
“As a vet, I’ve seen huge differences



in reactions to a cancer diagnosis,” Dr. Stoewen says. “It’s based partially on what cancer means to the client – how much they know and understand, and whether they’ve had personal experience with cancer (either good or bad, with themselves, another person or another animal, for example).

“It also depends on their connection to the animal – whether they are attached or bonded to the pet, or whether they are committed to pet. This commitment shows itself in their willingness to invest the time and finances needed to treat the illness, for example.”

Dr. Stoewen began the interviews in mid-April and expects to have preliminary results by this time, next year.



Dr. Wayne Murray of the Grey Bruce Veterinary Association presents a cheque for \$5000 to Drs. Paul Woods and Brenda Coomber.

PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE MURRAY

## Cancer research talks attract interest, funds

### ICCI Co-directors take message public

TALKS BY DRs. BRENDA COOMBER and Paul Woods, co-directors of the Institute for Comparative Cancer Investigation, have attracted interest and support from vets as well as the general public.

The Grey Bruce Veterinary Association (GBVA), for example, chose to make a designated gift to OVC Pet Trust, to support the Animal Cancer Centre project. A cheque for \$5000 designated for the ACC was presented to Drs. Coomber and Woods on Nov. 27, 2008.

"This is the first time GBVA designated where the donation should be spent," says Dr. Wayne Murray, president of the association. GBVA has donated \$70,000 to OVC Pet Trust over the past 15 years.

"We like to support it as much as we can," says Dr. Murray, adding that the association had run low-cost rabies clinics in the past to raise funds for OVC Pet Trust.

About 50 veterinarians from the Grey Bruce region attended the presentation, which was organized by Dr. Allison Hooper, the continuing education chairperson for the group.

Drs. Coomber and Woods continued to spread the word in the new year, speaking on "Comparative Cancer Research: Of Mice and Men (and Cats and Dogs)" at the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science on March 5. They presented an overview of some of the recent advances in cancer discovery and the limitations in translating research from mouse to man.

## Smiling Blue Skies

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One out of three dogs will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their life times. Our dogs' statistics, mirror our own. Cancer doesn't knock at the door. It barges right in."

As well as supporting these events and working with other groups interested in donating to Smiling Blue Skies, Beber provides support to others whose pets are living with cancer. "We offer a 24-hour-a-day, seven days a week support network. It doesn't matter where people live and what they need. We try to help in any way we can, and that includes directing people to programs that may be able to offer financial assistance, keeping an up-to-date list of studies across North America, and the Smiling Blue Skies website is home to lots of web, print, and people resources."

Beber also recognizes the links between developing treatments for cancer in animals and developing treatments for humans, and has become involved in raising funds for both causes. "Recently, for example, we held the second annual Janice Gunn Obedience Training Weekend, which benefitted both Smiling Blue Skies and the Breast Cancer Society of Canada, supporting breast cancer research and patient support, right here in British Columbia."

Her message, both when she is raising funds for cancer research and when she is talking to others facing cancer, is always one of hope. "No matter how black a day is, or how bad your life seems right now, at some point you're going to see blue skies. That's when we need to take a step back and celebrate those perfect moments, when the sky is blue and the sun is shining, just like our dogs do. Hope is a powerful medicine."

Today Smiling Blue Skies involves hundreds of wonderful people and dogs participating in walks, dog shows, agility trials and other events across Canada, and the organization continues to grow. "What we do through the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund is important for everyone, and together, we are taking a bite out of cancer!" says Beber.

[www.smilingblueskies.com](http://www.smilingblueskies.com)

# Day-long event includes talks and tours

## OVC Pet Trust friends gather at annual forum

MORE THAN 120 FRIENDS and colleagues of OVC Pet Trust gathered at the Fund's annual forum, held March 28, 2008 at the Ontario Veterinary College.

The event included a financial update by Stephen Woeller, OVC director of development, and a recap of research activities funded by OVC Pet Trust, by Dr. Gordon Kirby, OVC associate dean of innovation and research. The Ask a Vet session, with OVC graduates Drs. Barbara Drewry and Mary DeCaire fielding questions, led to a lively discussion on selective breeding in dogs, among other topics. Dr. Debbie Stoewen spoke on the human/animal bond.

Tours of the OVC Teaching Hospital Small Animal Clinic followed lunch.

The event was made possible by the generous support of Medi-Cal/Royal Canin Veterinary Diet, whose sponsorship helped make the day possible.



**Dr. Gordon Kirby presents a certificate to Aidan Finn, president of Orange aPEEL, in recognition of his company's support of OVC Pet Trust.**



**Amy Bennett describes to OVC Pet Trust friends Barbara Parke and Carolyn McIntyre how the cow stomach was preserved. She was one of seven Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students who served as tour guides.**



**Dr. Barbara Drewry, of Royal City Animal Hospital, answers a participant's question. Both she and Dr. Mary DeCaire, her co-participant in the Ask A Vet session, are trustees of OVC Pet Trust.**



**Roger Warren was one of the founders of OVC Pet Trust in 1986 and remains involved as an honorary trustee.**

## Best Friends

*Best Friends* of Pet Trust is published by the Ontario Veterinary College for the interest of Pet Trust donors and friends. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the OVC Pet Trust board of trustees. Reproduction of material from this newsletter is welcomed. Credit should be given to *Best Friends* of Pet Trust.

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