September 2003 saw the departure of our former Dean, Reuben Rose. His contribution to the Faculty’s survival and growth has been monumental. He became Dean at a time of great need when the Faculty required fresh ideas and a new direction. Reuben provided that innovative approach and was a catalyst for change. It is difficult to mention all of his achievements for the Faculty, but some key areas need to be outlined. Reuben was visionary in looking outwards for support and advice. He strategically involved the veterinary profession, animal industries and the broader corporate sector in forward planning for the Faculty. This was very much a listening process, but with defined actions as outcomes, and key strategic partnerships have been formed as a result: for example, in farm animal health and production research. Reuben was also instrumental in revitalising the Veterinary Science Foundation. He saw the need for looking elsewhere for financial support rather than relying on traditional and ever-dwindling government funding and, supported by its Executive Committee and friends of the Faculty from the corporate world, the Veterinary Science Foundation has become a most successful fundraising arm.

Reuben’s contribution to the introduction of the new curriculum was pivotal. He saw a need for change in the way we did our core business and as a result, the new curriculum is now in its fourth year with the challenging final year to be introduced in 2004. Support from the veterinary profession will be fundamental to its success. The last key area on which Reuben impacted – and perhaps the most important of all – was that of transforming the culture of the Faculty. He was a great believer in engaging all staff within the Faculty in new initiatives, by providing them with skills and responsibility.

Enhanced communication and staff development, especially in the area of leadership, has moved the Faculty significantly along the path towards a culture of collective leadership. These are the legacies left by Professor Reuben Rose as he worked to provide a platform for success and growth. However, it is business as usual for the Faculty as challenges remain and many of these initiatives still need to be embedded. We are blessed with a wonderful team of people and an outstanding student body, but we recognise that we still need strong support from the veterinary profession and animal industries to assist us in achieving our goals. To this end we shall continue to look outwards and listen.

On the 2nd of October, the Faculty began its new strategic planning process. Faculty members were joined in discussion by key University personnel, and external representatives from the animal industries and veterinary profession. The process was one of open and honest communication, especially in relation to expectations and needs related to undergraduate and postgraduate education, research, veterinary teaching hospitals and our financial sustainability. I believe the day was a successful initiation to the current planning process, and it will be built on in the coming year.

While we embed ongoing initiatives, there is still a need for the Faculty to embrace new strategic opportunities. One such example is the proposed Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre at Camden. Through the efforts of Jennie Churchill, Director of the Veterinary Science Foundation, and Associate Professor Tony English, significant government funding has been raised, providing the Faculty with a challenge and an enormous opportunity to develop a significant centre for education and research.

Dr Audrey Leary. Architect’s impression of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre and new public entrance to the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney. The Cat Centre will be a completely new state-of-the-art hospital for feline medicine and surgery and a part of Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the University Veterinary Centre, the Faculty’s small animal clinic and teaching hospital.

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**VSF wins funding for Wildlife Centre**

The proposal Wildlife and Conservation Centre at Camden will focus on the care of wildlife, including underpupils, postgraduate and community education, the care of sick and injured native animals, and research.

The Veterinary Science Foundation, working with Associate Professor Tony English, has secured $2.1 million from the federal government’s Campbeltown-Camden Sustainable Regions Program to establish a Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre on the Camden campus. The funding will be formally announced in early 2004 at a joint press conference with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services the Hon John Anderson MP, local Macarthur MP Pat Farmer, and key University of Sydney staff.

The multifaceted Centre will be unique in Australia, enabling the Faculty to take a leadership role in wildlife issues. It will provide clinical care for native fauna, knowledge of the practical aspects of wildlife medicine for veterinary science students, tertiary education, vocational training for wildlife professionals and community carers, and a focus for wildlife research and consultation to government and industry.

The University of Sydney is providing significant support for this major project through the provision of buildings on the Camden campus.

**Australia’s Biggest Dog Wash**

Sydney Olympic Park was the scene for yet another record-breaking effort when twelve veterinary students washed an amazing 848 dogs in eight hours to break the Guinness World Record for dog washing, previously set at 715 by a group from The Netherlands. The record attempt was staged as part of Sydney Olympic Park ALIVE!; the annual event that celebrates the start of the 2000 Olympic Games, and it achieved huge media coverage for the Veterinary Science Foundation.

More than 250 veterinary students and staff generously volunteered on the day, and senior veterinary students provided pet health checks to 600 dogs. Dr Harry Cooper and Channel Seven’s Harry’s Practice new presenter, alumni Dr Chris Brown, gave their time to entertain the crowds, as did the Parramatta International Canine Sports Club, NSW Police Dogs, Dancing Dogs, and a wide range of different dog breeds.

The Foundation is enormously grateful to its generous and highly supportive event sponsors:

**J D Stewart Address**

Dr Graham Kelly, Executive Director and founder of Novogen Limited and a graduate of the Sydney University Faculties of Veterinary Science and Medicine, delivered the 2003 J D Stewart Address. His presentation outlined the ground-breaking research that started at the Sydney University in the 1980s and led to the development of a drug that is now proving to have a significant benefit in cancer patients. See media release at: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation/media_news_view.php?mid=22.

**Pfizer**

Pfizer is funding an ultrasound teaching program conducted by Associate Professor John House, Director of the Bovine Clinical Practice at Camden. The funded equipment will enable veterinary students to gain proficiency in the use of the ultrasound, and short courses for practitioners may also be offered once the program is established.

**Roundhouse**

GORDON AND VALICH

completely new state-of-the-art hospital for feline medicine and surgery and is

Architect’s impression of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre and new public

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Architect’s impression of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre and new public
A critical milestone has been reached with the commencement of Stage 1 of the complete redevelopment of the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney into a state-of-the-art small animal Teaching Hospital, clinic and referral centre. This is one of the Faculty's major initiatives, and the focus of the Veterinary Science Foundation's most important fundraising campaign. The redevelopment of the forty-year old University Veterinary Centre at Sydney will encompass both totally new and renovated buildings, and the $3.7 million Stage 1 will see the construction of the world-class Valentine Charlton Cat Centre on the site of the now-demolished old stable complex. This initial Stage will also include a new public entrance, pharmacy, dog hospital reception area, clinical tutorial and staff facilities, and new isolation rooms that will fulfill the needs of the American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation requirements. Construction of Stage 1 is expected to be completed in August 2004.

Funding the development
The Valentine Charlton Cat Centre has been made possible by a significant bequest through the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science. The University of Sydney is providing dollar for dollar funding, and the University Veterinary Centre Foundation has raised the remainder of the funds required for Stage 1.

In addition to the bequest from the estate of the late Charlton, the Foundation is very grateful for the significant donations received from private individuals and the veterinary industry. Major industry supporters include Provet, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Apex Laboratories and Novartis Animal Health.

We need YOUR help to build Stage 2
The Veterinary Science Foundation has already raised funds towards Stage 2, which will include refurbishment of the existing Veterinary Centre into a superb dog hospital and to match the excellence of the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre.

The completion of Stage 2 is critical to the Faculty's bid to achieve American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation and for the contribution it will make to the education of future veterinarians and companion animal care. The Veterinary Science Foundation, together with a group of alumni donors, is now seeking contributions to the campaign from members of the profession, as well as the community and industry – with your help, Stage 2 will become a reality. For further information, please contact Jennie Churchill on (02) 9351 8024 or jenniec@vetc.sydney.edu.au

NEW CURRICULUM COMES TO FRUITION

A major transformation has occurred in the final two (clinical) years of the curriculum. Students in fourth year participate in a formal period of intensive study of clinical processes relevant to the major species, attended by practising professionals. In first semester they study diseases of small companion animals on the Sydney campus. In second semester they move to the Camden campus to receive instruction in horses and production animals, including specific teaching units at the new dairy facilities at Corrinsophe, the sheep reproduction unit, university farms and piggeries, and the Faculty equine unit. Following conclusion of fourth year, students are considered veterinary interns and are afforded formal registration by the Veterinary Surgeon’s Board, enabling them to undertake restricted acts of veterinary science under supervision of a registered veterinarian. Students are required to complete a unit of study, Preparation for Practice, designed to reinforce their knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities incumbent on a registered member of the profession.

Veterinary interns are then ready to undertake a lecture-free final year in which they must complete four rotations in the University’s Veterinary Teaching Hospitals (Sydney and Camden), and a month each in a Rural Lands Protection Board, extramural small animal and extramural rural mixed practice. The remaining three rotations allow students to choose between a very broad range of approved elective rotations, including further experience in a general practice environment, referral or specialist practices, zoos or wildlife parks, animal sanctuaries, the RSPCA, research laboratories, and industry placements.

During 2003, the Faculty has undertaken a limited introduction of the new intra- and extramural training programs. Feedback has been largely positive with some teething problems and we are highly focusing on correcting, and where possible anticipating, these problems to ensure this challenging task succeeds.

The year 2004 will finally see all years 1 to 5 participating in the new curriculum. All members of Faculty are aware that the success of this new program relies in great part on the commitment, goodwill and hard work of our Partner Practitioners. The Faculty extends warm thanks to our Partners for participating in what we are sure will result in the production of highly skilled, versatile graduates from the University of Sydney.
A joint project of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the National Dairy Development Board of India (NDDB) has the potential to boost the economic and social situation of India’s 11 million dairy farming families. India may be the world’s largest milk-producing nation, with more than 300 million dairy cows producing 84 million tonnes of milk per year, but the milk is largely produced by small village dairy farmers owning only 1-3 head of cattle or buffalo, and most of these animals are on a straw-based diet. The NDDB is working with the Milk Farmers’ Faculties in different regions in India. If successful, more commercial plants will be set up to produce the feed supplement in collaboration with local industry and dairy cooperatives.

As Dr Gulati says, “We have the technology, and now our challenge is to get that technology operating effectively at village level.”

### MANAGING MILK FEVER THROUGH NUTRITION

Can managing what cows eat affect a reduction in the incidence of milk fever? This is the subject of two research projects led by Senior Lecturer in Ruminant Production, Dr David McNeill.

The first, funded by Roche Vitamins Limited with support from Dairy Australia, involves assessing the effectiveness of vitamins aimed at priming the cow’s hormonal status so her hormones can prepare for the expected hypocalcaemia at calving. The key vitamin, 25(OH)-Vitamin D3, is only now available in commercial quantities that make possible its inclusion as a feed supplement in the last few days before calving.

One potential cause of milk fever is the inability of the body to synthesise cholecalciferol, the key calcium homeostasis hormone, fast enough in response to the drain on plasma calcium as lactation starts. David and the team members - Professor David Fraser, Dr Michelle Hyde, Cathy Stimson and Amy Wilson - aim to help cows produce an adequate quantity of cholecalciferol before calving.

25(OH)-Vitamin D3 is the direct precursor of cholecalciferol. Previously it could only be administered by injection - risks as incorrect dosage can be toxic and paradoxically lead to milk fever.

The team has established that the oral dose is readily and predictably absorbed into the blood stream, and determined an appropriate dosage that elevates plasma concentrations of 25(OH) to target levels for at least nine days – giving the cow time to beat the danger period of the few days either side of calving.

The next step is to demonstrate that the feed supplement effectively improves the rate of synthesis of cholecalciferol in pre-calving cows.

The second project is focused on feeding to improve bone health at calving. The expectation is that cows with healthier bones, the major reservoir of calcium in the cow, will cope more effectively with a hormonal spike at calving by being better able to supply extra calcium to the blood stream when demanded by hormonal changes at calving.

The project team - Drs David McNeill and Michelle Hyde, Professor David Fraser, Marie Bhanugopan and Anna Rankin – is testing the hypothesis that the key to improving bone health is to feed cows a high potassium diet for several months up to a few weeks before calving.

Importantly, the treatment is stopped for the last two weeks of gestation as excess diet potassium at this stage induces milk fever. The theory being tested is that a high intake of potassium creates a mild metabolic alkalosis which in turn promotes bone accretion. There is already good evidence that this is the case in humans.

It’s accepted that a diet high in calcium, phosphorus and magnesium is essential for building healthier bones, but the potential value of potassium has been ignored. Through this research, funded by Dairy Australia and Canpotex/Agro Australia, it is hoped to show the value of potassium in improving the ability of the cow to direct more of its dietary Ca, P, and Mg toward bone replenishment.

Contact Dr David McNeill on d.mcneil@cadenm.au.net.au.

### ACHIEVING PROFIT FROM PIGS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Achieving the most cost-effective and sustainable improvements in areas such as profit (gross margin), the environment and energy efficiency, and to enhance the well-being of the farmers and their families.

The objective is to increase profit from pig raising by a minimum of 5% for all LLIP farmers, the key focus being profit rather than production. Farmers are trained to calculate gross margin, to understand nutrition and the importance of protein and energy levels, to build capacity through animal husbandry procedures (castration, vaccination, iron administration, and construction of heated creep areas) and to evaluate the impact ofitions systems to achieve measurable and sustainable improvements in areas such as profit (gross margin), the environment and energy efficiency, and to enhance the well-being of the farmers and their families.

The LLIP researchers work closely with farmer teams that are actively involved in pig production to a developing country like the Philippines without adequate training and support to ensure they are maintained.”

Both Leanne and Bethany said the experience confirmed the need to gain a broad range of veterinary skills before working in a developing country. And the final bonus: the opportunity to spend time with the farmers, to get to know them on an individual level and understand their daily routine, and to try to learn the language.
One of the most easily-recognised but ARE HOT SPOTS THAT...national survey to over 500 small animal retrospective cases seen at the University David Hodgson, Dr Felicity Cole, and dermatologist Dr Linda Vogelnest, Professor have been no published studies evaluating The disease is common worldwide, but there... – or canine pyotraumatic dermatitis. Right: Veterinary...s Chair of Farm Animal Health, says, ‘The Faculty is working on a proposal for a vertically integrated unit of study in aquatic animal health to become part of the animal health and production curriculum from Years 1 to 5. We are already connected to the aquatic industry through national and international funding of research projects and we have increasing interest from potential postgraduate students – I hope this will become an excellent model of research informing teaching.’ One of the historic factors behind the Faculty’s commitment to aquatic animal health is a highly virulent disease of fish and the internationally-recognised role the Faculty is playing in its epidemiology and diagnosis. Australia is unlucky to be home to one of the five internationally notifiable viral diseases of fish, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV). It was the first virus isolated from fish in Australia (1986) and its extreme virulence, lack of host specificity, restricted geographic range, lack of an effective treatment and high socio-economic cost of disease outbreaks, have led to a joint hosting by the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory of the International Reference Laboratory for EHNV. The laboratory provides research and a diagnostic referral service to the Australian industry, and ensures international diagnostic capabilities by providing technical advice, protocols and reagents to laboratories worldwide – a requirement of international guidelines in trade in aquatic animal products, administered by the Fish Diseases Commission of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). Through the Reference Laboratory the Faculty has won funding from the federal Fisheries Research and Development Corporation’s Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram to replenish and upgrade the Laboratory’s ageing stocks of reagents critical to the diagnosis of important aquatic diseases such as EHNV, and to create quality-controlled reagents for newly developed protocols based on, for example, molecular biology. Richard says diseases such as EHNV present real challenges to both commercial fisheries and the management of ecosystems worldwide, and further research is critical to determine the role of legal and illegal trade in food fish, ornamental fish, reptiles and amphibians in the spread of this and other aquatic viruses. He aims to ensure the Faculty participates in this research: “Through its key role in the OIE’s Reference Laboratory and a commitment to teaching aquatic animal health, the Faculty has the opportunity to make an increasing contribution to an often over-looked discipline within veterinary science.”

National leadership in teaching and research focused on aquatic animal health is now on the Faculty’s agenda. Professor Richard Whittington, the Faculty’s Chair of Farm Animal Health, says, “The Faculty is working on a proposal for a vertically integrated unit of study in aquatic animal health and production curriculum from Years 1 to 5. We are already connected to the aquatic industry through national and international funding of research projects and we have increasing interest from potential postgraduate students – I hope this will become an excellent model of research informing teaching.” One of the historic factors behind the Faculty’s commitment to aquatic animal health is a highly virulent disease of fish and the internationally-recognised role the Faculty is playing in its epidemiology and diagnosis. Australia is unlucky to be home to one of the five internationally notifiable viral diseases of fish, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV). It was the first virus isolated from fish in Australia (1986) and its extreme virulence, lack of host specificity, restricted geographic range, lack of an effective treatment and high socio-economic cost of disease outbreaks, have led to a joint hosting by the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory of the International Reference Laboratory for EHNV. The laboratory provides research and a diagnostic referral service to the Australian industry, and ensures international diagnostic capabilities by providing technical advice, protocols and reagents to laboratories worldwide – a requirement of international guidelines in trade in aquatic animal products, administered by the Fish Diseases Commission of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). Through the Reference Laboratory the Faculty has won funding from the federal Fisheries Research and Development Corporation’s Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram to replenish and upgrade the Laboratory’s ageing stocks of reagents critical to the diagnosis of important aquatic diseases such as EHNV, and to create quality-controlled reagents for newly developed protocols based on, for example, molecular biology. Richard says diseases such as EHNV present real challenges to both commercial fisheries and the management of ecosystems worldwide, and further research is critical to determine the role of legal and illegal trade in food fish, ornamental fish, reptiles and amphibians in the spread of this and other aquatic viruses. He aims to ensure the Faculty participates in this research: “Through its key role in the OIE’s Reference Laboratory and a commitment to teaching aquatic animal health, the Faculty has the opportunity to make an increasing contribution to an often over-looked discipline within veterinary science.”

The disease is common worldwide, but there have been no published studies evaluating the disease in this country. Veterinary dermatologist Dr Linda Vogelnest, Professor David Hodgson, Dr Felicity Cole, and Masters student Marcel Vel, undertook a study based on information from 100 retrospective cases seen at the University Veterinary Centre in Sydney and via a national survey to over 500 small animal veterinarians, to evaluate predisposing factors, incidence and current treatment regimes used by practitioners.

The study confirmed that canine pyotraumatic dermatitis is common in Australia, with over 80% of responding veterinary practices seeing more than 20 cases per year (median 4-460 cases). The lesions are most likely to appear on the tail, dorsally (48%) and the lateral face (11%). Two forms of disease are reported: the more typical superficial form, and a rarer deep form with associated bacterial folliculitis. While age and sex do not appear to significantly predispose to disease, a major risk factor is breed. In Australia, Golden Retrievers head the list, with Labradors, Rottweilers, German Shepherds and cattle dogs also appearing to have increased risk. The breed type is closely associated with the haicut. Thick, dense haircuts have increased hair shaft diameter and skin surface humidity, favouring surface micro-organisms. In the retrospective study, 33% of the 16 affected breeds had haircuts classified as thick or dense. Climatic factors may also influence disease, with an increased incidence in the warmer months - 87% of cases presented to the Sydney University Veterinary Centres in summer, autumn, or spring. While there is no apparent effect of average maximal temperature, the study suggested a decreased risk in low rainfall and non-coastal regions, indicating humidity may be a key factor. The pathogenesis of “hotspots” is incompletely understood, but often other underlying skin diseases are present, the most frequently cited being flea bite hypersensitivity. Despite this, reported treatments suggested concurrent flea control for management of “hotspots” is under utilised. Practitioners in Australia employ a wide range of treatment protocols. More than 90% cleanse and clip the lesions and follow up with topical therapy. Determining and controlling underlying factors is considered important, as is distinguishing between the superficial and deep forms of “hotspot” to determine the need for antibiotic treatment. Although this is essential for the deep folliculitic form (Staphylococcus intermedius is the key bacteria), 82.2% of responding veterinarians use systemic antibiotics in all cases. More than 50% of responding practitioners use short acting glucocorticoid injections to control the typically severe pruritus and patient discomfort. Hot spots remain a common and often frustrating disease, both for the patient and the veterinarian. The study showed that, despite much research and reporting, further investigation is needed to clarify predisposing risk factors and determine an ideal treatment protocol.
Was being a vet your chosen career?

I am one of the typical ones who always wanted to be a vet. What I didn’t realise as a young boy is how many career options there are within veterinary science. I went to school in Melbourne and always thought I would go to university there. When I was offered a place at Sydney University on a Friday, I headed north the next Monday to secure the position and find somewhere to live.

Has the decision to study vet science been a good one?

I’m in my last month of the five-year course and it definitely been a good decision. I have had the opportunity to do amazing things, meet remarkable people and go to interesting places. I really think we are a privileged profession.

What are you planning to do after graduation?

I’ve worked as an after hours emergency nurse at The Veterinary Specialist Centre at North Ryde the past year. This led to the offer of a one-year rotating internship starting in May. I will be spending time on a number of disciplines – internal medicine, surgery, emergency and critical care, neurology, anaesthesia and foine medicine. I think this will provide me with good initial training regardless of where I choose to go after this.

You obviously enjoy playing an active role in University life?

Yes, a university education is about much more than just study. I was President of the student Veterinary Society in 2002, and in the same year I was chosen to participate in the Cornell Leadership Program with vet students from around the world. At Cornell I spent ten weeks working on a research project and participated in many other program modules. I have also enjoyed Sydney University social events, including interfaculty sport. These are important in a close faculty like veterinary science.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love the beach, being active and enjoying good food and drink. I’ve been a competitive rower right through University, rowing eights and fours for both St Andrews College and the Sydney University Boat Club – the home of rowing. I have competed in four University Games as well as the Rowcon Cup. I’ve also been the rowing coach at The Kings School for the past five years, coaching for the GPS Head of the River.

What are your thoughts on the new curriculum?

As a student in the last year of the old curriculum, I feel it has prepared me well and given me good base undergraduate education, especially in the basic sciences. Being in the transition year, I have also had a taste of the new curriculum through extramural rotations in veterinary practices. This was an invaluable experience and an opportunity to encounter things I may never see again. They are also a good opportunity to develop professional, technical and communication skills. It will be interesting in a few years to see any difference in graduates of the old and new curriculum.

Students at the Veterinary Specialist Centre at North Ryde

I think this will provide me with good initial internal medicine, surgery, emergency and critical care.


Julie’s research, funded by an Australian Research Council industry linkage grant, resulted in the discovery of the gene and the two mutations responsible for the genetic defect. She then developed a DNA test to discriminate between carriers and animals free from the defect.

The test is now licensed by Reprogen and the University of Sydney to five international DNA testing laboratories, enabling its use by all four veterinary associations around the world. For further information, email DNATest@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

Monday 21st September 2003

Veterinary Society for Animal Welfare (VSAAW) Sydney University Wildlife Society

The Society, which gained accreditation with Sydney University Union this year, aims to bring wildlife and conservation issues to the attention of veterinary and other Sydney University students through wildlife-based field trips and courses, and bi-monthly talks.

VSAAW (Veterinary Science for Animal Welfare) is a proactive student association dedicated to promoting and exploring issues of animal welfare.

VSAAW promotes wildlife awareness and education through a range of activities such as a monthly executive meeting and a forum for veterinary students and faculty. The VSAAW provides a forum for discussion, education, and awareness of animal welfare issues at Sydney University and throughout the veterinary community.

VSAAW is a student-oriented organization, governed by a committee of students and faculty, and is open to all interested parties. VSAAW aims to promote awareness of animal welfare issues and to foster a commitment to the wellbeing of animals in the veterinary profession and the wider community.

A DNA test developed by Dr Julie Cavanagh during her PhD studies is now available worldwide through a commercial licensing agreement with commercial testing laboratories on all continents. This is the first time a Reprogen discovery has achieved full commercial application and, according to Centre Director Professor Herman Raadsma, it represents a significant milestone and performance indicator for Reprogen, the Faculty’s Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction.

A DNA test developed by Dr Julie Cavanagh during her PhD studies is now available worldwide through a commercial licensing agreement with commercial testing laboratories on all continents. This is the first time a Reprogen discovery has achieved full commercial application and, according to Centre Director Professor Herman Raadsma, it represents a significant milestone and performance indicator for Reprogen, the Faculty’s Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction.

The impact of this extraordinary program is reflected in the discovery of the gene and the two mutations responsible for the genetic defect. She then developed a DNA test to discriminate between carriers and animals free from the defect.

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In February 2003 the Faculty of Veterinary Science commenced an articulated postgraduate program in Veterinary Public Health Management (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters) to fulfil an urgent need for animal health professionals with skills focused on the national and international livestock industries. One of the program’s first students, Catherine Taragel, a Veterinary Officer with NSW Agriculture, says, “I enrolled because I wanted to keep growing professionally and deepen and broaden my knowledge within my current area of work, veterinary public health. I see this program giving me an edge as it comes to employment opportunities, both within Australia and overseas.” The flexible and innovative program is designed for busy professionals with a combination of distance education units delivered via online classrooms and short intensive residencies. For Catherine, the minimal residential units fitted in with her work and home life. “I also like the combination of technical expertise with personal development. As an undergraduate I was predominately technically trained - the leadership units enabled me to learn skills that are important personally and professionally.”

2004 students will choose from a range of units of study led by facilitators including Dr Angus Cameron from AuVet Animal Health Services (Data Analytics and Management), the Faculty’s Dr Jenny-Ann Tombo (Epibiology), and Drs Edmund Peeler and Sophie St-Hilaire from the UK Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Aquatic Epibiology). The new leadership unit is a collaboration with the University of NSW Australian Graduate School of Management. Applications are invited for 2004 Veterinary Public Health Management units of study (closing date 28 November 2003), due to commence in February 2004.

For details and application forms, please visit: http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/publichealth_management/index.html, or contact Program Administrator Hannah Forreth on +61 2 9306 9105 or email vpmgt@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

### TRIM RETURNS FROM SEA

Trim, the contemporary version of Matthew Flinders’ much-loved travelling companion, was given a health check by Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt, Director of the University Veterinary Centre Sydney, on her return from sea. Trim had just completed a re-creation of Matthew Flinders’ 36,000km circumnavigation of Australia with her owner Captain Sarah Parry and the crow of the Windward Bound. The small but intrepid feline survived falling overboard five times during the 17-month voyage.

### TEACHING WITH INNOVATION

An exciting new take on teaching and learning has been made possible by funding from the Andrew Thye Reid Charitable Trust, secured through the Veterinary Science Foundation. The Thye Reid Teaching Innovations Unit has been established with a focus on online delivery and small group, inquiry driven and case-based learning.

The Unit supports Faculty staff as they strive to develop students who are flexible, adaptive and self-directed learners – staff are trained in new approaches to position the Faculty as an innovator in veterinary and animal science education, and are guided in researching the impact on student learning.

A critical project has been the Virtual Clinical Campus. An online information portal for Year 5 students, it ensures they can keep in touch with staff and access learning resources while working off campus in extramural rotations.

Other projects include ICAP: Integrative Case-based Applied Pathology, a case-based learning resource for Veterinary Pathology with print and online resources including client comments, diagnostic images and post mortem findings. A similar case-based Microbiology program, CAVMOL, enables students to solve problems and review their understanding of infectious disease processes using resources such as diagnostic imaging and patient information.

Gerard Marcus, Educational Developer and Instructional Designer, says he and the other unit staff are committed to developing learning resources that engage, enthuse, motivate and challenge. “The Faculty already has excellent online resources such as WebCT, VEGIN (Veterinary Education and Information Network) and OLIVER (Online Image Library for Veterinary Education and Research). We’re here to help staff design innovative programs around these resources, and to ensure they’re delivered effectively.”

Charmaine Piggett (left) and Jasmine Frome work at the University Veterinary Centre at Sydney, have become the first nurses in NSW to complete a Certificate in Advanced Nursing in Emergency and Critical Care (ANRNC). They also achieve fame in their spare time, by performing as trapeze artists.

Professor Frank Nicholas has been awarded the prestigious Helen Newton Turner Medal for 2003 and during July delivered the Turner Oration at the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics. The Medal is the leading award for Australian livestock geneticists and perpetuates the memory of outstanding Australian scientist and sheep geneticist, Dr Helen Alma Newton Turner. Visit: http://agbio.uno.une.edu.au/~aaabp/aaahf.html

Associate Professor Rosanno Taylor and Dr Michelle Hyde have reached the finals of the 2003 Australian Awards for University Teaching – for the second time – and will attend the national award ceremony in Canberra in December.

New Faculty staff include: Professor Tom Scott, Chair in Poultry Science; Dr Sarelle Golati, Principal Research Fellow; Dr Matthew Hobbs, Senior Research Fellow in Bioinformatics; Dr Patricia Holyoke, Senior Lecturer in Intensive Animal Health; Dr Christine Smith, Veterinary Specialist (Large Animal Surgery) at Camden; and new Veterinary Registrars at the University Veterinary Centre Sydney Drs Jane Heller and Ross McGregor.

Faculty staff passing Australian College of Veterinary Scientists exams include: Dr Sandra Machcruser, Member in Small Animal Medicine; and the Richard Kuipers von Lande, Member in Small Animal Surgery. Dr Linda Vogelstain is now a Fellow of the Australian College, in Veterinary Dermatology, and is currently applying for specialist registration. Dr Brad Dowling from Camden was examiner for the College of Equine Surgery.

2004 senior Faculty Executive appointments include: Associate Dean, Staff and Students, Professor Chris Maxwell; Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor; and Associate Dean, Research, Professor Gareth Evans.

What is your current position?
Senior Lecturer in Animal Behaviour

What qualifications do you hold?
PhD, BVSc, post-graduate Certificates in Higher Education and Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling, Qualified Riding Instructor

How did your career begin?
Sitting in a paddock watching horses. As kids, my sister and I used to work for a horse dealer, breaking in young horses and trying to sort out the trickier older ones. I considered becoming a farmer to work with horses, but elected to knock out and get the A-levels required for vet school.

The horses took second place when my sister and I volunteered at a must-visit veterinary practice. Eventually we went to the same Vet School - Bristol – of the BBC TV series. I was in practice in the UK and Australia for five years, returned to Bristol to take a PhD in Horse Behaviour, then took up a lecturship at the Sydney Faculty in 1996. I have been here ever since and I love my work.

What are your current key projects?
Apart from various research projects in horse and dog behaviour and welfare, I supervise PhD students working on baboons and seals. I also spend a great deal of time managing the OLIVER image library, and with Professor Frank Nicholas and Federico Costa, I am working on an ambitious new project called the Listing of Inherited Disorders in Animals (LIDA) – something that should be of tremendous benefit to the community.

What project is giving you the most satisfaction at the moment?
Writing four books and winning the Prince Laurent Prize, the leading international animal welfare award, for my work on horses.

What do you do in your (limited) spare time?
1. Relax with friends.
2. Voluntary work for animal welfare charities.
3. Walk Wally - about 1.5 hours per day keeps him reasonably content and my beer belly at bay.

Tell us about Wally
Wally is a large blue merle crossbread dog born in 1997. He’s a future around the Faculty and helps me with animal husbandry and behaviour lectures. He’s been on Catalyst. Totally Wild, several episodes of the ABC’s Animal Attractions program and NRL TV and Oak Flavoured Milk TV advertisements. His fees and some of my book royalties go towards an annual student prize for animal welfare science. The Wally McCreavy Prize.

Who inspires you and why?
Any vets who demonstrate that animal welfare is truly their priority. Vets are uniquely placed to be advocates for animals in their care but it is easy to be distracted by the financial aspects of a case or the owners’ agenda. Unless they are acting in the animals’ best interests, vets are more like technicians than physicians.

The Pet of the Year Annual is generously sponsored by Merrial and FRONTLINE Plus. The perfect asset for every clinic waiting room, the Annual is published by Citrus Press and retails for $24.95. ISBN 0-9751023-0-3.
THIRTY-FIVE YEAR OLD “MUSEUM” FLOCK

During the 1960s, Dr Steven Salamon of the Faculty’s then Department of Animal Husbandry, pioneered the cryopreservation of ram semen, paving the way for modern artificial breeding techniques.

More than forty years later, in April 2003, ReproGen researchers Professors Chis Manwell and Gareth Evans, Dr Lindsay Gillan and team - with octogenarian Dr Salamon in attendance - thawed some of the earliest stored semen (cryopreserved in 1968) and used it to impregnate forty-six Merino ewes.

The result - forty lambs, including some twins, were born in September at the University Farms in Camden. The lambs have a slightly “old-fashioned” appearance and are obviously offspring of prime Merino rams of thirty-five years ago, the days when fine wool strains were popular.

This is the longest recorded successful storage of ram semen worldwide. The exercise demonstrated the maintenance of fertility of semen with long-term storage in liquid nitrogen. This has great significance for conservation, suggesting that semen of rare and endangered breeds or species can be cryobanked for long-term future use.

FIFTY YEARS OF ANATOMY

Dr Pat McCarthy (above) has devoted his career to the discipline of veterinary anatomy – and almost fifty years after graduating from Queensland University, he is still contributing significantly to veterinary education worldwide.

Dr McCarthy is co-author of the fourth edition of the text-atlas, Anatomy of the Dog, published by Schliezersche. One of the texts recommended for the Faculty’s Year 1 anatomy students, it is dual purpose, written at both a theoretical and applied level.

A Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Anatomy at Sydney University from 1974 to 1995, Pat also spent time in the 70s and early 90s at the Veterinary Anatomy Institute in Berlin. His German language skills enabled him to translate the first edition of this text into English.

Pat remains a part time tutor in anatomy at the Faculty, and he also teaches live equine anatomy at the Mounted Police Complex at Surry Hills. He combines this with on-going personal research into the “anatomy of subcutaneous structures in the live horse as detected by the senses of sight and touch”.

VEIN

www.library.usyd.edu.au/VEIN/

The VEIN website (Veterinary Education and Information Network) has received over 340,000 visits since January from all over the world. Scholarly sites recently linked include the Universities of Hanover, Barcelona, Minneapolis, New England, and Florida.

Current popular links pages include dogs, horses, anatomy and physiology, cancer and employment, exotic diseases, marine mammals, cattle, animal behaviour and urban animal management.

The Unit of Study page for Year 8 students has been redeveloped to extend Library services to students on extramural placements, and they can now request books and articles, access databases and seek assistance from any location.

Membership of VEIN Community, funded by the Post Graduate Foundation, is also increasing with a focus on document delivery and information request services.

Contact VEIN for further information: http://vein.library.usyd.edu.au/about/contacts.html

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