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Tufts Veterinary School Hospital Notes
Steve Rowell, D.V.M., Hospital Director

Tufts' Veterinary School Completes \$3.25 Million in Renovations At Its Foster Hospital for Small Animals - *Space Increases By 20 Percent With Improved Emergency Facilities*

Thanks to just-completed renovations totaling \$3.25 million, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine can now treat more than 25,000 animals a year at its newly expanded Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals—more than double the case load the hospital managed when it opened in 1985.

The renovations, which encompass a 20 percent expansion of space, include a new emergency room and trauma center, an expanded intensive care unit for recovering pets, and new hospital wards and treatment areas. A separate ward also has been created for cats, allowing the felines to avoid the potential stress of being near other small animals. Hospital employees also can take breaks in a newly created room that is much closer to the animals undergoing treatment and recuperation.

"Our faculty and students are thrilled with all of the improvements, as I'm sure our clients and their pets will be," said Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of Tufts' Veterinary School, at rededication ceremonies on Nov. 1. "In just 18 months, we've added important amenities and new space that will support our nationally recognized emergency and critical care program."

Tufts' Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals provides a clinical teaching environment for veterinary students, emergency care and specialty services for companion animals, a referral and consultation service to New England veterinarians, and a venue for advancing animal health care through clinical studies. The Foster Hospital has garnered international attention for its leadership in veterinary specialties such as emergency and critical care medicine, oncology, diagnostic imaging, surgery, nutrition and behavior. In addition to treating dogs and cats, Tufts veterinary faculty, staff and students care for a wide range of mammals, reptiles and birds that have gained popularity as pets, including ferrets, rabbits, snakes, lizards, fish, parrots, cockatiels, and others.

Fully funded by charitable gifts, including a lead gift from Dr. and Mrs. Henry L. Foster and gifts from other individuals and foundations, the Foster Hospital construction project created a 5,100-square-foot addition, and renovated 6,500 square feet of existing space. Larry Gates, a specialist in veterinary hospital architecture and a member of Gates, Hafen and Cochrane in Boulder, Colo. designed the expansion while construction was undertaken by Themeli Builders Inc., of Holliston, Mass.

President Lawrence S. Bacow joined Tufts' trustees and Veterinary School officials to commemorate the expanded and newly renovated hospital during the school's ongoing 25th anniversary celebrations. The occasion marked the second time the University's trustees had visited the veterinary school since it opened in 1978.

"It was a giant leap of faith when Tufts' Board of Trustees voted in 1978 to establish a School of Veterinary Medicine—the only one in New England," he said. "In 25 short years, this school has pioneered animal welfare and wildlife and conservation medicine, and become a leader in emergency and critical care, oncology and nutrition. Our expanded and newly renovated hospital is testament to our continuing focus on veterinary care quality and leadership."

Bacow expressed special gratitude to Henry and Lois Foster for their ongoing commitment to Tufts Veterinary School. "The Fosters' generosity has touched every aspect of this school," Bacow said. "With meaningful gifts pledged at critical junctures in the development of the school, they have been important partners in helping us to deliver optimal veterinary education and exploration, for the present and the future, at Tufts University.

The founder of Charles River Laboratories, Inc., Henry Foster is a trustee emeritus of Tufts University and chair of the Board of Overseers to the School of Veterinary Medicine. The Fosters support a student loan fund and a scholarship program at Tufts to help make

veterinary education accessible to talented students. In addition, the Fosters endowed the Henry and Lois Foster Chair in Comparative Medicine to underscore the importance of teaching and exploring the links between animal and human health.

While extending his thanks to Foster, Dr. Steven Rowell, hospital director, said: "Through your efforts and those of our faculty and staff, we have created a hospital that is known for excellence and innovation. We are here for animals and people who need care, attention and kindness for their immediate needs. We are here to teach current and future veterinarians. We are here to research the questions we do not currently have answers for."

The recent expansion and renovation of Tufts' Foster Hospital for Small Animals is another indication that Tufts University is investing in the growth and improvement of facilities at all of its campuses in Massachusetts, which are located in Grafton, Medford/Somerville and Boston.

In 2001, Tufts University opened the Bernice Barbour Wildlife Medicine Building, a \$2.65 million facility that tripled the veterinary school's capacity for treating New England wildlife, researching global environmental issues and teaching veterinary students. Now designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the official New England treatment center for rare and endangered species, Tufts' Wildlife Clinic treats more than 1,800 ill or injured animals annually.

Under a grant from the Commonwealth, the town of Grafton recently broke ground on the western side of Tufts' Veterinary School campus to build the infrastructure to support Tufts' Science Park, a new commercial biomedical sciences center. The 106-acre park is the next step in fulfilling Tufts' role of growing economic development opportunities in the region. The park will be devoted to research, development, light manufacturing and other activities by biotechnology, medical, pharmaceutical and other science companies.