



A Healthy

Addition

WCVM's health care resources for small animals have had a welcome growth spurt.

For months, chain link fences and safety signs have discouraged people from getting too close to the construction site of WCVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital addition. But all of that changed in early July when the safety measures came down and the building's new main doors finally opened up to the public.

What exactly do visitors find once they step inside the structure's freshly painted hallways? Plenty! The two-storey addition is now home to new reception areas for the hospital's Small Animal and Large Animal Clinics, plus office and garage space for WCVM's Field Service. Behind the Small Animal Clinic's reception are more bright corridors leading to additional examination rooms as well as to new rooms for specialized services such as veterinary ophthalmology and medical oncology.

The hospital addition includes an expanded pharmacy and a quiet room for the families of critically ill pets. As well, the main floor has kennel space for exotic animals, patients undergoing radioactive iodine treatments and for animals under isolation.

The addition's second floor includes more office space for WCVM faculty and graduate students, an area for medical records and administration, and several seminar rooms that are



WCVM'S "PHILANTHROPIC MATCHMAKER": Patti Tweed has only had the chance to meet a handful of WCVM's donors since she became the College's new development officer on May 1. "But the donors I have met are just as I would have expected: very down to earth, genuine people with a strong commitment to their animals," says Tweed. "It's been a pleasure to get to know people who have that kind of connection and all that it entails."

For Tweed, meeting the College's supporters and learning more about what's behind their interest in supporting WCVM's research, clinical and educational activities is a vital aspect of her job: "Part of my role is to act as a conduit or a 'philanthropic matchmaker' between the work that's being done at the College and the interests of the donors. It's an ongoing – and fascinating – learning process for all of us."

Becoming WCVM's development officer was a natural progression for Tweed whose career has combined physical and spiritual health with

development and philanthropy in a unique way. A 1972 graduate of the U of S College of Home Economics, Tweed practised as a dietitian for two decades – serving as director of the Royal University Hospital's dietetic internship program for 10 of those years.

In the early 1990s, Tweed shifted her focus from nutrition to studying theology at the University of Winnipeg. After earning her Certificate in Theology in 1995, she became the program's director for five years.

During that time, she became part of a development council that looked at possibilities for fund raising at the university. "I began to apprentice with some very fine people in the field, I started taking courses, and eventually, I moved into fund raising," explains Tweed, who helped to establish the University of Winnipeg Foundation in 2003.

Two years later, Tweed returned to the U of S and became the development officer at the College of Nursing – an experience that showed her the value of building strong networks between professions, private and public sectors and communities. **Continued on page 7**



allocated for teaching smaller groups of students or for impromptu meetings. Two floors down, the addition's basement is now home to the hospital's materials management including laundry services, glassware cleaning and autoclaves for equipment sterilization. Further down the hallway is the hospital's new aquatic treadmill — a valuable rehabilitative tool for canine patients.

Besides all of the resources inside the hospital's new addition, the College's faculty, staff and students have also been using newly-renovated space in the hospital's existing space — areas that have been in operation since November 2006.

The renovated areas include an expanded treatment room and a closed small animal surgery area where surgical teams have access to new surgical suites, an intensive care unit and an anesthesia-recovery room. The redesign also puts clinical and surgical teams in close access to the variety of technological resources in the hospital's medical imaging area.

After so many months of juggling space and resources, WCVN's newly-opened areas are a huge boon to the College's staff, faculty, students and patients. But the sounds of construction won't go away just yet. Renovations have now begun on other parts of the existing hospital — a sign of more good things to come. **V**



PREVIOUS PAGE, bottom left: Health care workers in the new small animal anesthesia room. Top left: A team prepares for feline surgery in one of the new small animal surgery suites. Top: The hospital addition's second floor windows catch the early morning sun.

ABOVE, top: The new reception area in the Small Animal Clinic. Top right: The expanded treatment room for small animals. Right: Resident Dr. Kevin Cosford meets with clients and their pet in one of the new examination rooms.

Those experiences will also be valuable in Tweed's new job where she will work closely with WCVN's family of donors to ensure that they see the results of their commitment.

For example, Tweed looks forward to meeting with the College's companion animal health researchers, learning about their research initiatives, and gaining a better understanding of how those projects could potentially benefit pet health care.

"I want to understand the high level of research that's going on at the College so I can talk about these research goals with our donors and heighten their awareness of the possibilities that we can achieve through their support of these kinds of exciting projects."

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Patti Tweed