

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Western College of Veterinary Medicine's equine and companion animal health programs receive \$1.07 million and fund raising incentive

How do the donors want WCVM to distribute their contribution of \$1.07 million?

- **Support of major equine health research projects:** Over the next five years, WCVM will direct \$750,000 of the donation toward large-scale research projects that are designed to make significant and tangible progress in critical issues of horse health. Once a new research grant application process is developed, the veterinary college will encourage collaborative research groups to apply for the funding. WCVM-based scientists may collaborate with other University of Saskatchewan researchers on these projects, or they may forge new partnerships with scientists based at national and international veterinary research institutions.

- **Support of the Equine Health Research Fund:** WCVM's longtime horse health fund will receive \$125,000 to increase the annual value of its highly effective research grant program. This program supports the innovative work of graduate students and faculty members who have specialized interests in horse health.

- **Support of the Companion Animal Health Fund:** WCVM will allocate \$125,000 of the gift to increase the support of its successful companion animal health research grant program. The program annually supports research studies of scientific merit that target critical issues in companion animal health. The funding will support research teams consisting of graduate students and faculty members who specialize in companion animal health.

- **Support of undergraduate veterinary education:** WCVM will assign \$70,000 of the gift to establish two new full tuition scholarships for undergraduate veterinary students who have demonstrated an interest in equine and companion animal health. The donors' long-term goal is that these scholarships will help to emphasize the values of compassionate care and patient advocacy in veterinary medicine.

What else have the donors promised to do?

To attract additional support, Heather Ryan and L. David Dubé have pledged to “match” any new contributions to the fund that they have established for major equine

health research projects at WCVM or any increased amounts of contributions to the Equine Health Research Fund (EHRF) in the next five years.

This means that the Saskatoon couple will donate one dollar for every dollar that the veterinary college raises by attracting new donors to the fund created by Ryan and Dubé — or by encouraging existing donors to increase their annual contributions to EHRF.

In total, the donors will annually contribute up to \$100,000 in matching funds to the fund that they have established for large-scale equine research projects or to EHRF — providing the College with the opportunity to potentially raise \$1 million for its major equine health research programs by 2011. It also provides individual donors, horse sport and breed organizations and businesses with a unique incentive to potentially “double their money” and their support of equine health research at WCVM.

What is the Heather Ryan and L. David Dubé Foundation?

Heather Ryan and her husband, L. David Dubé, established their own charitable foundation to support organizations that reflect their interests and passions — including horses and companion animals. While this is the foundation’s first major gift, Ryan and Dubé have supported WCVM’s Equine Health Research Fund and its Companion Animal Health Fund for several years. They are also longtime clients of the college’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Other initiatives of the foundation include the support of selected wildlife preservation and nature conservation projects and the establishment of an annual scholarship for U of S Huskies football players. Dubé was graduated from the U of S in 1985 and is a former member of the university’s football team.

Ryan is involved in sales and marketing for her family-owned business, while Dubé is the president and chief executive officer of the Concorde Group of Companies in Saskatoon, Sask. Ryan and Dubé are members of the Saskatoon Polo Club and own a number of horses including four registered Quarter horses that are direct descendants of *Wimpy*, *Poco Bueno* and *Doc Bar*. They’re also the dedicated owners of two cats that share their Saskatoon home.

What is the Equine Health Research Fund (EHRF)?

The Equine Health Research Fund has played a major role in making the Western College of Veterinary Medicine a national centre for horse health research and specialized training. With grassroots support from Western Canada's horse industry, the fund annually invests more than \$100,000 in equine health research projects, a research fellowship program for graduate students, and a summer research program for undergraduate students.

During its three-decade history, the Fund has helped to train nearly three dozen equine specialists and has supported more than 150 equine health-related studies. EHRF-sponsored research and training programs have also encouraged many undergraduate veterinary students to pursue equine health-related careers in private practice, research, academia and industry.

What is the Companion Animal Health Fund (CAHF)?

The Companion Animal Health Fund supports specialized veterinary training, innovative research and the use of new technology in the area of companion animal

health at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Donations from pet owners, veterinarians, organizations and businesses fuel the fund's research and training initiatives.

CAHF annually provides close to \$100,000 in funding for companion animal health research projects, a research fellowship program and the purchase of specialized equipment. Since 1978, the fund has helped to train 19 companion animal health specialists and has supported dozens of scientific investigations that have improved the quality of companion animal health care around the world.

What is the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN)?

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is the premier centre of veterinary education, research and expertise in Western Canada and a key member of Canada's veterinary, public health and food safety network. Nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at the internationally-recognized veterinary college that includes a veterinary teaching hospital, provincial diagnostic laboratory and large scale research facilities.

WCVN annually attracts more than \$5 million in public and private funding for various research areas including basic and applied sciences, clinical sciences, comparative medicine, food safety, toxicology, public health and environmental health.

Who is enrolled in WCVN's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program?

Each year, 72 students begin the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program that's designed to prepare students for vital careers in private practice, public service, research, academia and industry. Based on an interprovincial agreement with Canada's four western provinces, WCVN accepts an allotted number of applicants from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The college also considers applicants from the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

In the past four decades, WCVN has graduated nearly 2,300 veterinarians. While most WCVN alumni live and work in Western Canada, former students can be found in more than 500 communities around the world.

Is WCVN equipped to conduct advanced equine and companion animal health research?

A number of WCVN faculty members have developed research interests that focus on specific areas in equine and companion animal health. As a result, the College's research track record in these areas has helped to attract many high quality graduate students who wish to specialize in aspects of equine and companion animal health.

All of these scientists have access to specialized equipment and a wide range of technologies at the college's teaching hospital and research units. One unique resource is WCVN's magnetic resonance imaging and radiation therapy centre for small animal patients. Another distinct facility is the equine performance centre that houses Western Canada's only high-speed treadmill and a computerized force plate system.

WCVN is in the midst of expanding and renovating its facilities at a cost of \$57 million. This series of major projects will be completed by 2008. A large part of this extensive makeover is a two-storey addition to WCVN's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, plus major renovations to small animal and large animal surgery suites and patient wards.

Another valuable addition is a two-storey research wing where scientists will have access to cellular, molecular and analytical technologies as well as to faculty with expertise in molecular techniques.

Where is the Western College of Veterinary Medicine located?

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is part of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Sask. WCVM is located on the only Canadian university campus with a full complement of health sciences, agriculture and engineering colleges. The U of S is also home to Canada's only synchrotron that will eventually include a biomedical imaging and therapy beam line for research and clinical applications in animal and human health.

Another key facility is the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), a world leader in the research and development of vaccine and immunotherapeutic technologies for humans and animals — including horses.