

## **CVMA Brings Our College to Chicago**

By Herbert Whiteley

With well over half the population of this state living in Cook, DuPage, Will, and Lake counties, it's no surprise that the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois has set its strategic sights on the Chicago area.

Recently, this campus attempted to catalog its "imprint" on Chicagoland. We counted more than 300 separate programs or activities—in research, academics, recruiting, alumni and development, public engagement, and communications—that extend the reach of the Urbana campus to the people of Chicago.

Our College was well represented on the list. We have residencies, diagnostic service, veterinary student rotations, recruiting programs, and public outreach programs at Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, and the Anti-Cruelty Society.

The new joint DVM/master's in public health ties us to the University's Chicago campus and its School of Public Health. We have an annual presence at the International Kennel Club of Chicago Show in February and the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo in March.

Among the most important ways we are connected to Chicago is through each of you. When our alumni hang their diplomas on their office wall or leave our *Veterinary Report* in their lobby, they are bringing the College to their clients. When they refer cases to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital or send samples to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, they are allowing us to serve Chicago-area animal owners.

That connection can be very powerful. Many private gifts have come to the College from generous individuals who have never been to Urbana, but who deeply value the care their companion animal received from an alumnus.

Thank you to each of you for raising the visibility of the College of Veterinary Medicine within your sphere of influence.

P.S. Don't miss Illini Day at Brookfield Zoo on June 24. For details, see [www.uiaa.org/urbana/](http://www.uiaa.org/urbana/) or call 800/355-2586.